

All Speaker Profiles

Conference Chances and Challenges

Climate Change/Transition and Biodiversity - Germany and Africa, 11 February 2023

Jügel-Haus, Senckenberg Gesellschaft, Frankfurt am Main

Marco Becht

Goldschmidt Chair Professor at the Solvay Brussels School for Economics and Management at Université libre de Bruxelles where he teaches master courses on corporate governance and stewardship and responsible capitalism. Becht is also a Founder Member, a Fellow and the Executive Director of ECGI, an international research network. Becht has been a Visiting Professor at the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford, Stanford Law School, Columbia Law School and the University of St. Gallen. His research is at the intersection of corporate law and finance and has appeared in peer-reviewed journals like the Review of Financial Studies and the Journal of Law of Economics.

Bernhard Brüne

Professor Brüne studied biochemistry at the University of Tübingen and obtained his doctorate at the University of Constance. After stays abroad in the US (GlaxoSmithKline, 2 years) and in Sweden (Karolinska Institute, 1 year), he completed his habilitation in Constance in 1993. After professor ships in Erlangen/Nuremberg and Kaiserslautern, he has headed the Institute of Biochemistry I at the Faculty of Medicine, Goethe University Frankfurt since 2004. His research aims at understanding mechanisms of innate immunity, while focusing on oxygen deficiency and lipid signaling. In addition to curricular teaching for human and dental physicians, he participates in graduate education and the Molecular Medicine program.

From 2009 to 2021, he directed the CRC 815 (Redox Regulation) and since 2017, he is the spokesperson of the DFG-funded Research Training Group 2336 (Resolution of Inflammation).

In 2020/2021 he was Dean of Research, and before that Dean of Preclinical Studies at the Faculty of Medicine for 7 years. Prof. Brüne is member of the GRADE board, a reviewer for international research organizations and journals, including EditorinChief of Biological Chemistry from 2012 to 2020. He has served or is serving on the boards of foundations and scientific advisory boards of various research institutions. His research is continuously supported by DFG, other thirdparty funding agencies, industry, and various awards. He has published numerous scientific papers, acquired patents, and is a member of national/ international professional societies.

As Vice President, he pursues the goal of establishing optimal conditions for young scientists and research and aims at positioning GoetheUniversity among the top universities in Germany.

Hannah Helmke

Hannah Helmke is Co-Founder and CEO of the Frankfurt-based climate tech company right. based on science (right°). With right°, she strives to integrate a simple °C number as a decisive KPI with science-based metrics to help companies meet the challenging targets set out by the Paris Climate Agreement and decouple their economic growth from CO2 emissions. Her focus on economic activity in a world affected by climate change was the result of combining both of her academic disciplines: psychology and international business. She is guided by a strong conviction that a science-based approach is the best way to manage the emotionally charged field of corporate climate strategy.

Before founding right°, Hannah Helmke worked for the IT service provider Bridging IT and for the Deutsche Post DHL Group. There, she explored the potential of digitalization as a lever to reach sustainability targets and worked on introducing science-based targets as reporting instruments.

Under Hannah Helmke's leadership, right° has received the prestigious Next Economy Award 2020. She herself was awarded the Digital Female Leader Award 2020 in the category Sustainability as well as the Female Founders Award of AmCham Germany in 2021.

Thomas Hickler

Professor, PhD, born 1972, German, married, two children
Since 04/2010 Professor for Quantitative Biogeography (Chair), at Goethe-University and Head of Data and Modelling Centre at Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre (BiK-F)

University Education

1999-2004: PhD in Geobiosphere Science at Department of Physical Geography and Ecosystem Science (INES) at Lund University, Sweden.

July 1999: Masters of Science (MSc) in Biology at Lund University, Sweden.

1993 – 1999: Undergraduate studies in Biology, at Goethe University, Frankfurt, Friedrich-Schiller University, Jena, and Lund University.

Former Education

1993 Practical business certificate industrial manager (“Industriekaufmann”) at Hoechst AG; 1991 Final school graduation (“Abitur”)

2009-2010: Research fellow at Department of Physical Geography and Ecosystem Science (INES) at Lund University, Sweden

2004-2008: Postdoc at INES

His main research interest is to understand the distribution of life on earth (e.g. species, biodiversity, vegetation types, ecosystems) through space and time. I am particularly interested in interactions between climate and the terrestrial biosphere. This includes potential impacts of climate change on species, ecosystems and associated ecosystem services, as well as the role of the biosphere in the earth climate system (e.g. carbon and water cycling). Methodologically, vegetation and ecosystem modelling at local to global scales has been at the core of his work.

Numerous projects, environmental impact assessments and publications.
Speaker of GRADE Sustain (Goethe Graduate Academy). Numerous Awards.

Jobst v. Hoyningen-Huene

Prior to co-founding econnect Dr. Jobst von Hoyningen-Huene worked for Deutsche Bank, starting his professional career in 2000. As Managing Director and Head of the Financial Institutions Group Germany he headed a team of ten people. Focus of his team: corporate finance and advisory work for clients in the German home market and Switzerland.

Jobst has executed M&A, Equity Capital Markets (IPOs and follow-ons) as well as debt transactions for clients such as Aareal Bank, ABB, ACP, AEGON, Allianz, AWD, AXA, Bundesanstalt für Finanzmarktstabilisierung (Soffin), Commerzbank, Danske Bank, Deutsche Bank, Deutsche Pfandbriefbank, Deutsche Postbank, easycash, ERGO, EURO Kartensysteme, First Data, Frankfurter Sparkasse, General Electric, Hannover Re, Heidelberger Leben, Helvetia, HRE, Infrassure, Interhyp, Landesbank Berlin, Lloyds Banking Group, MasterCard, MEAG, Munich Re, Old Mutual, ProCredit Holding, Stadt Frankfurt, Swiss Life, Swiss Re, Talanx and W&W.

Further, Jobst served as coordinator of the “German Energiewende” task force during his time at Deutsche Bank. This Corporate Banking & Securities’ task force prioritized and bundled various business initiatives addressing the challenges related to the focus on renewable energy production and transmission in Germany. Also, he facilitated the Eye Fund I (closing 2010) sponsored by IAPB and Ashoka.

Jobst holds postgraduate degrees from the Universities of Hamburg (doctoral dissertation), Stellenbosch/South Africa (LL.M), London School of Economics (MSc) as well as Dresden (first qualifying law exam). He is married and has one child.

Tobias Kollmann

Dipl.-Designer. Born 1973, married to Dipl.-Ing. Arch. Doris Kollmann, two children
Member of the Art Directors Club Germany (ADC) and the German Designer Club (DDC)
Numerous awards

Professional experience

Cool Agency GmbH - Stuttgart

Since 2022 Founder, CEO and Executive Creative Director

Creative agency for climate communication

Nur kühl ist cool. - The creative agency for the 1.5°C economy.

Milla & Partner GmbH - Stuttgart

2014 - 2022 Chief Creative Officer, Chief Brand Officer, Partner

Internationally active and one of the leading German brand experience agencies

design hoch drei GmbH & Co. KG - Stuttgart

Creative Director, Member of the Executive Board

Phoenix Design - Stuttgart

Chermayeff & Geismar - New York

Teaching

Film Academy Baden-Württemberg - Ludwigsburg

since 2018 Guest lecturer

Education

State Academy of Fine Arts Stuttgart, Communication Design

Rebecca Peters

University of Tübingen, Environmental Systems Analysis

Rebecca Peters (M. Sc. Geoecology) is a doctoral researcher at the University of Tübingen, and a freelance consultant for climate change adaptation. In her research position, she works on identifying sustainable pathways for a renewable energy transition in African countries to mitigate climate change. Ms Peters investigates national drivers and challenges that determine the continental potential for leapfrogging an environmentally sustainable transition towards entirely renewable energy-based electricity systems.

Towards this aim, she created RePP Africa, a spatially explicit and open-access database on existing and proposed hydro-, solar, and wind power plants to support stakeholders from science, (non-)governmental organizations, consulting, and industry. Based on this dataset, she investigates how a renewable energy mix could relieve the dam-building pressure on rivers in Africa to guarantee long-term river functioning. Ms Peters will present an overview of existing and proposed hydro-, solar, and wind power plants, discuss possibilities and challenges for a transition towards renewable energy-based electricity access, and highlight why it is crucial to consider environmental impacts in renewable power plant planning

Wolfgang Rams

Professor Rams is co-founder and CFO of Africa GreenTec as well as heading Germany. He is a serial entrepreneur, an investor and business angel. In 2016, he invested in Africa GreenTec, was chairman of the supervisory board for 3 years and is now a board member since 3 years. He has been teaching entrepreneurship and innovation management for almost 10 years, but gave up this job to focus on his board position at Africa GreenTec. Africa GreenTec delivers electricity and sustainable systems solutions to the most remote and inaccessible places in the Global South. Its ImpactSites measurably empower people to achieve more self-determination and growth.

Before joining Africa GreenTec Wolfgang founded in 2006 the consulting company Consmart GmbH in Duesseldorf where he was active as a consultant for innovation management and entrepreneurship, founded several startups, and became a Business Angel. Prior to that, he worked 11 years for Deutsche Telekom where he was Director of Strategy and Business Development at T-Mobile Poland in Warsaw and held a position as a senior investment manager at T-Venture.

Wolfgang has an engineer's degree from the Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule (RWTH) Aachen, a degree in Business Administration (Diplom) from FernUniversität Hagen and a Ph.D. in Marketing awarded by Mercator School of Management Universität Duisburg-Essen, Prof. T.J. Gerpott.

Michael Sahm

Michael Sahm leads the Climate Strategy unit of FORLIANCE, a company dedicated to developing, financing, and managing nature-based solution projects as well as supporting clients and partners to accelerate decarbonization within organizations.

During his career, he has been working with governments and public organizations, companies, communities, and civil society to design and implement sustainable land-use projects in Latin America and Africa.

He has always been interested in making complex issues, such as climate change and environmental challenges, comprehensible and accessible to corporate leaders and the public.

Before joining FORLIANCE, he worked for a management consultancy in Frankfurt, Forest Carbon Group, the World Bank's and World Bank Institute in Washington, the consultancy Carbon International in Brussels, and as a newspaper and radio correspondent in the US, Europe and Asia. He is a trained journalist and holds a diploma in Economical Geography, Sociology and History.

Klement Tockner

Klement Tockner is the Director General of the Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung and a Professor of Ecosystem Sciences at Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main (since 2021). He served as President of the Austrian Science Fund FWF (2016–2020), Professor of Aquatic Ecology at the Free University of Berlin (2007–2020), and Director of the Leibniz Institute for Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB), Berlin (2007–2016). He received his PhD from the University of Vienna (1993) and a titular professorship at ETH Zurich (2005).

Klement Tockner is an internationally renowned freshwater scientist, particularly in the research fields of biodiversity, ecosystem science, and environmental management. He was editor-in-chief of the journal *Aquatic Sciences* (2005–2014) and is a technical editor of the journal *Ecosystems*. He has published about 250 scientific papers, including more than 180 ISI articles. In 2009, he published a comprehensive book on European rivers (*Rivers of Europe*, Elsevier; 2nd edition in 2022).

Klement Tockner successfully led large inter- and transdisciplinary projects such as the “BioFresh” project funded by the European Commission. He is a member of several scientific committees and advisory boards, including the National Institute of Environmental Studies, Japan (NIES), and the Biology Centre, Czech Republic. He is an elected member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina - National Academy of Sciences, and the Mainz Academy of Sciences and Literature.

Career/Employment History

Since 2021	Director General of the Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung
Since 2021	Professor of Ecosystem Sciences at Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany
2017–2021	Head of the Austrian Agency for Scientific Integrity – ÖAWI, Vienna, Austria
2016–2020	President of the Austrian Science Fund – FWF, Vienna, Austria
2007–2020	Professor of Aquatic Ecology at the Free University of Berlin, Germany

2007–2016 Director of the Leibniz Institute for Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB), Berlin
 2005 Titular professorship at ETH Zurich, Switzerland
 2004/2005 Visiting Scientist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, NY, USA
 2002 JSPS Research Fellow at Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan
 1999–2007 Group Leader at EAWAG/ETH, Dübendorf, Switzerland
 1996–1999 Assistant Professor at ETH Zurich, Switzerland
 1994–1996 Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Vienna, Austria
 1993–1994 Freshwater consultant in Rwanda and Uganda, Africa
 1993 PhD in Zoology and Botany at the University of Vienna, Austria

Numerous Awards and Recognitions.

Daniela Weber-Rey

Lawyer and Non-Executive Board Member, ia HSBC Trinkaus & Burkhardt, Fnac Darty, member of the Board of Trustees of the Leibniz Institute of Financial Research SAFE e.V. and of the Université Franco-Allemande (DFH/UFA). Until recently she was a board member of the European Corporate Governance Institute (ECGI) and a member of the Regierungskommission Deutscher Corporate Governance Kodex.

The business lawyer Daniela Weber-Rey was for 3 years (2013-2016) in charge of Corporate Governance at Deutsche Bank (Chief Governance Officer), part of this time also as Deputy Global Head Compliance.

For almost 30 years Daniela Weber-Rey was an attorney and partner at Clifford Chance (formerly: Pünder Volhard Weber) in various management functions and different locations, acting also for 3 years as a member of its Partnership Council (2010-2013). Her focus was M&A and Private Equity, Governance and Board Room Advice as well as Financial Regulatory work.

She was a non-executive board member of BNP Paribas, Paris (2008-2013).

Studies in Germany, Switzerland and the US. Rechtsanwältin, LL.M. (Columbia University, NY) and Attorney-at-Law (New York). Numerous publications and articles. Since many years lecturer at Frankfurt School for Finance and Management.

Various French and German awards and decorations, in her profession as a lawyer and for political and cultural engagement.