

Press release

Berlin, 12.11.2021

Dialogue at eye level

The Board of *Die Junge Akademie* publishes ad hoc statement on the situation of scientists in temporary positions

In an ad hoc statement, *Die Junge Akademie's* Board takes a stand on the situation of advanced postdocs and group leaders in temporary positions in the German science system. In doing so, the Board refers to the Berlin Higher Education Act passed in September and the debate on the *Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz* (German Act on Temporary Scientific Contracts) that has been ongoing since the summer under the hashtag #IchbinHanna.

For the members of the Board, the precarious situation of scientists resulting from fixed-term contracts represents a structural problem that has not been sufficiently addressed so far. Moreover, the associated risk of uncertain career paths would currently lie with individual scientists, but not with the institutions.

"In addition to the individual challenges that fixed-term appointments pose for individuals, even after the early postdoc phase, they also harm the German science system as a whole. These problems are well known and include, in particular, the reduced international competitiveness of the German science system," says Astrid Eichhorn, Speaker of the Board of *Die Junge Akademie* and a physicist at the University of Southern Denmark.

Finally, in its statement, *Die Junge Akademie's* Board calls for early career researchers themselves to be involved in structural decisions about career paths in science. An exchange on an equal footing is necessary, both for consultation processes and for legal framework conditions and their implementation at German universities and other scientific organizations.

Ad hoc statements are comments of *Die Junge Akademie's* Board on issues of science policy of current interest.

Information on the Board of the Junge Akademie can be found [here](#).

The following members of *Die Junge Akademie* and its Board are available to answer your questions:

- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Astrid Eichhorn, University of Southern Denmark, Speaker of the Board of *Die Junge Akademie*
- Prof. Dr. Timo de Wolff, Technische Universität Braunschweig, Member of the Board of *Die Junge Akademie*
- Dr. Gisela Kopp, University of Konstanz, Member of *Die Junge Akademie*
- Dr. David Labonte, Imperial College London, Member of *Die Junge Akademie*
- Juniorprof. Dr. Linus Mattauch, Technische Universität Berlin and Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Member of *Die Junge Akademie*
- Prof. Dr. Doris Segets, University of Duisburg-Essen, Member of *Die Junge Akademie*

To refer to you in a timely manner, please direct your inquiries to:
presse@diejungeakademie.de

Ad hoc statement as PDF file for download:

[English Version](#)

[German Version](#)

Die Junge Akademie
an der Berlin-Brandenburgischen Akademie der Wissenschaften
und der Nationalen Akademie der Wissenschaften Leopoldina

Die Junge Akademie wurde im Jahr 2000 als weltweit erste Akademie für herausragende junge Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler ins Leben gerufen. Ihre Mitglieder stammen aus allen wissenschaftlichen Disziplinen sowie aus dem künstlerischen Bereich – sie loten Potenzial und Grenzen interdisziplinärer Arbeit in immer neuen Projekten aus, wollen Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft ins Gespräch miteinander und neue Impulse in die wissenschaftspolitische Diskussion bringen. Die Junge Akademie wird gemeinsam von der Berlin-Brandenburgischen Akademie der Wissenschaften (BBAW) und der Nationalen Akademie der Wissenschaften Leopoldina getragen. Sitz der Geschäftsstelle ist Berlin.