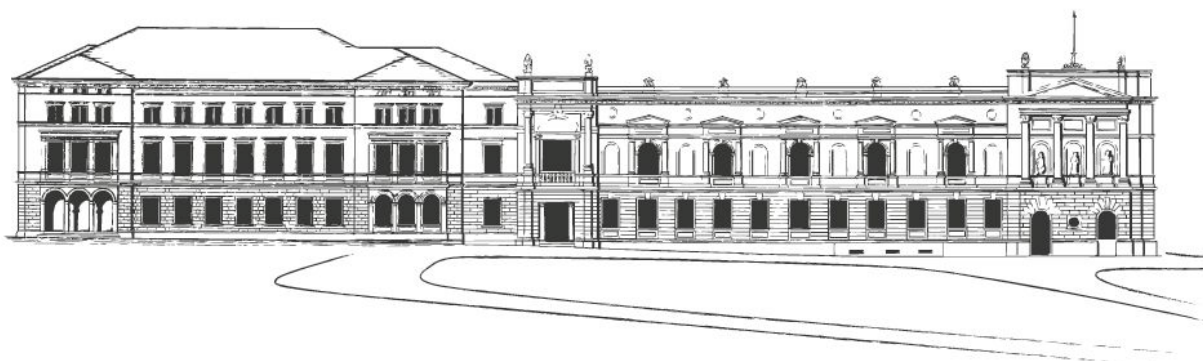


# Leopoldina Annual Conference 2026



## LEOPOLDINA JAHRESVERSAMMLUNG



## Autonomy

**24 to 25 September 2026**

Organising Committee:

Alexandra M. Freund ML, Zurich/Switzerland  
Wilhelm Hofmann ML, Bochum  
Bernhard Hommel ML, Shandong/ China

The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina  
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[www.leopoldina.org](http://www.leopoldina.org)

## Board Meetings

**Thursday, 24 September 2026**

|                         |          |                                               |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>10:00 – 11:30 am</b> | <b> </b> | <b>General Assembly of Leopoldina Members</b> |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------|

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*(by invitation only)*

|                         |          |              |
|-------------------------|----------|--------------|
| <b>11:30 – 12:00 am</b> | <b> </b> | <b>Break</b> |
|-------------------------|----------|--------------|

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|---------------------------|----------|------------------------------|
| <b>12:00 am – 1:15 pm</b> | <b> </b> | <b>Meeting of the Senate</b> |
|---------------------------|----------|------------------------------|

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*(by invitation only)*

# Programme

These lectures\* will be held in German and will be simultaneously translated into English.

**Thursday, 24 September 2026**

**2:00 pm**

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**Opening Ceremony**

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## **Musical Prelude**

**Welcoming and Opening  
Speech**

Bettina Rockenbach ML  
*President of the Academy*

**Welcoming Addresses**

N.N.  
*State Government of Saxony-Anhalt (requested)*

N.N.  
*Federal Ministry of Research, Technology  
and Space (requested)*

**Awards**

Bettina Rockenbach ML  
*President of the Academy*

- Cothenius-Medal
- ZukunftsWissen - Early Career Award of the Academy Leopoldina and Commerzbank-Stiftung

## **Break**

**4:00 pm**

**Presentation of the “Autonomy” artworks**

Alexandra Freund ML, Zurich/Switzerland

**4:15 pm**

**Introduction**

Bernhard Hommel ML, Shandong/China

**Keynote Lecture**

**Autonomy in Digital Society\***  
*Beate Rössler, Amsterdam/Netherlands*

## **Break**

**6:00 pm**

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**Evening Lecture followed by a Reception**

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**Moderation:** Bettina Rockenbach ML  
*President of the Academy*

**Automation, Autonomy, AI? How We Perceive and  
Interact with Technical Systems\***  
Linda Onnasch, Berlin

Friday, 25 September 2026

9:00 – 9:30 am | Lecture of the Awardee “ZukunftsWissen”

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**Moderation:** N.N.

**N.N.**

*Charlotte Wendland, Munich*

9:35 am

**Welcome and Introduction**

*Alexandra Freund / Wilhelm Hofmann / Bernhard Hommel*

9:45 – 11:05 am | Topic Section I – Autonomy in Machines

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**Moderation:** Bernhard Hommel ML, Shandong/China

**From Autonomous Driving to Physical AI\***

*Lutz Eckstein, Aachen*

**The Path Toward Autonomous Vehicles\***

*Christoph Stiller, Karlsruhe*

**Panel Discussion I**

11:05 – 11:25 am | Break

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11:25 am – 1:20 pm | Topic Section II – Autonomy in Biological Systems

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**Moderation:** Bernhard Hommel ML, Shandong/China

**From Cells to Society – What Self-Organization Can Teach Us Beyond Biology\***

*Bernhard Misof, Bonn*

**Neuronal mechanisms of autonomy\***

*Andreas Engel ML, Hamburg*

**Nudging, Boosting, and the Autonomy of Decision Making\***

*Ralph Hertwig ML, Berlin*

**Panel Discussion II**

1:20 – 2:30 pm | Lunch

2:30 – 4:25 pm

### Topic Section III – Autonomy, Culture, and Society

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**Moderation:** Alexandra Freund ML, Zurich/Switzerland

**Autonomy as sociological concept of problematization\***

*Doris Schweitzer, Frankfurt/M.*

**Autonomy, Choice, and Trust: A Culture-as-situated  
Cognition Perspective**

*Daphna Oyserman ML, Los Angeles/USA*

**Fundamental Liberalization and Decivilization – How  
Democracy is destroyed by our Desire for Autonomy\***

*Philipp Lepenies, Berlin*

**Panel Discussion III**

4:25 – 4:50 pm

**Break**

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4:50 – 6:45 pm

### Topic Section IV – Autonomy, Law, and Markets

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**Moderation:** Wilhelm Hofmann ML, Bochum

**Autonomy, Law, and the Market: A Behavioural  
Economics Perspective on Workplace Satisfaction,  
Employee Participation, and Contractual Freedom\***

*Matthias Sutter ML, Bonn*

**Autonomy we share. A Fundamental Rights Perspective.\***

*Susanne Baer, Berlin*

**The Future of Global Commons, Climate Policy, and  
Democracy: Remarks on Autonomy, Law, and Global  
Markets\***

*Ottmar Edenhofer ML, Potsdam*

6:45 pm

**Closing Remarks**

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*Alexandra Freund / Wilhelm Hofmann / Bernhard Hommel*

7:30 pm

**Dinner**

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*(for members of the Leopoldina and the Leopoldina  
Academy Circle of Friends as well as invited guests)*

**Venue**

Restaurant „Speiseberg“, Kröllwitzer Straße 45, 06120 Halle

We would like to thank the Leopoldina Academy Circle of Friends for its financial support of the student program. This enables selected pupils from all over Germany to take part in the Annual General Meeting.



**LEOPOLDINA**  
AKADEMIE  
**FREUNDESKREIS**

## Registration

The event is aimed at all interested persons. Participation is free of charge. We kindly ask you to register in advance by 15 September 2026 via [www.leopoldina.org/jv-2026](http://www.leopoldina.org/jv-2026).

You can also watch the Annual General Meeting via Leopoldina's YouTube channel.

## Hotel Reservation

The Leopoldina has provisionally reserved rooms. Participants are advised to make their individual booking under the keyword „Leopoldina“ no later than 13 August 2026. Room booking for speakers and senators will be made by the Leopoldina.

### **Dorint Hotel Charlottenhof**

Dorotheenstraße 12, 06108 Halle (Saale)

Tel. +49 (0) 345-292 36 06, Fax: +49 (0) 345-292 31 00

E-Mail: [reservierung.halle-charlottenhof@dorint.com](mailto:reservierung.halle-charlottenhof@dorint.com)

Walking distance approx. 20 minutes

Tram from Riebeckplatz – Moritzburgring (line 7) approx. 10 min. + 2 min. by foot

**A shuttle service will be provided from Dorint Hotel to the Leopoldina and back at the following times:**

Thursday, 24 September 2026

from 9:00 am; return journey after the reception

Friday, 25 September 2026

from 8:15 am; after closing remarks to the restaurant; return journey from 9 p.m. from the restaurant to Dorint Hotel

### **Further accommodation options (contingent keyword “Leopoldina”):**

#### **Ankerhof Hotel GmbH**

Ankerstraße 2a, 06108 Halle (Saale)

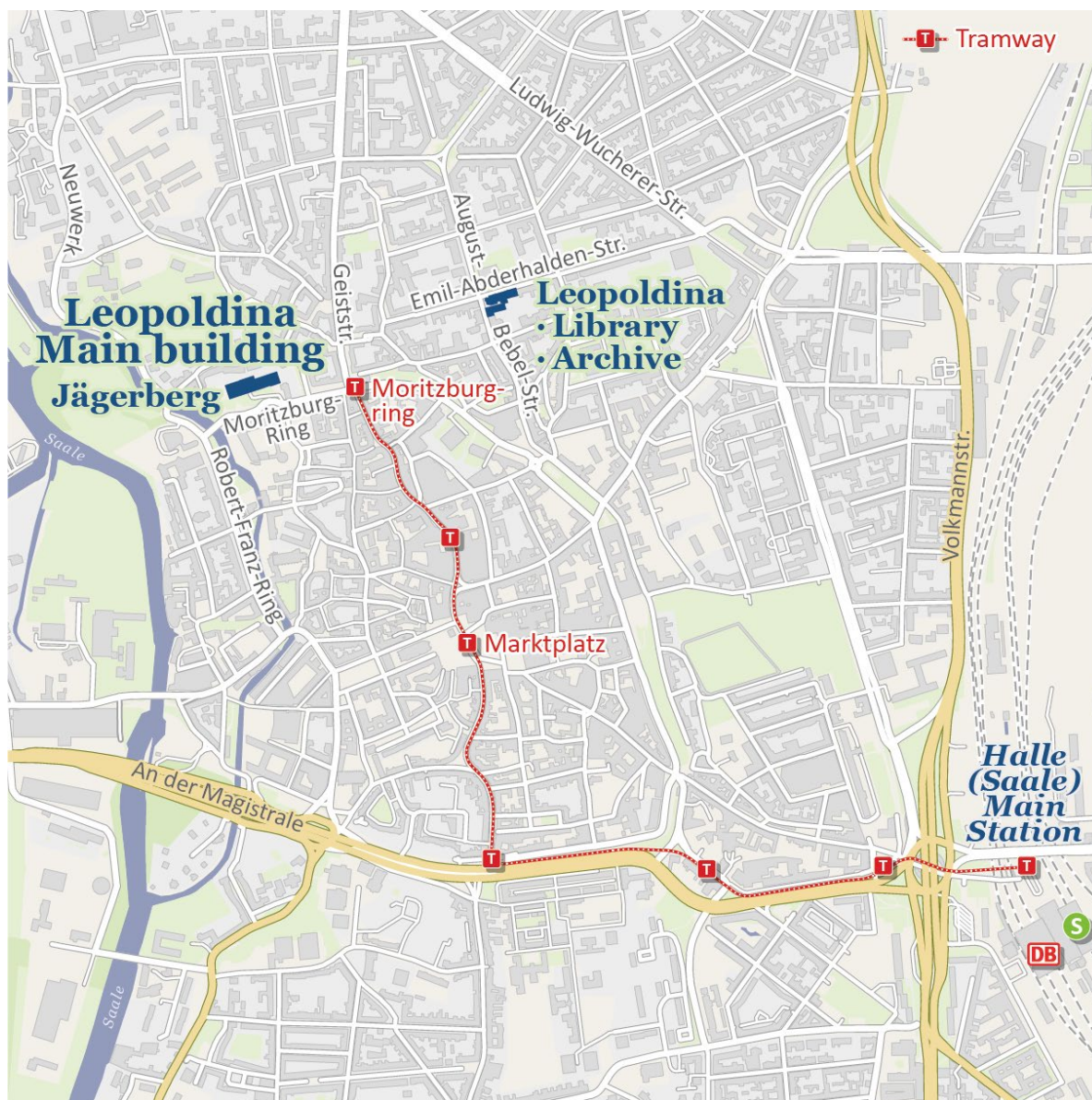
Tel. +49 (0) 345 232 32 00, Fax: +49 (0) 345 232 32 19

E-Mail: [reception@ankerhof.de](mailto:reception@ankerhof.de)

Walking distance approx. 10 minutes

## Venue

The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina  
Jägerberg 1  
06108 Halle (Saale)



## Getting to the Leopoldina

### From Flughafen Leipzig/Halle airport

by taxi in 30 to 40 minutes (around 50 €) or  
with Deutsche Bahn in 15 minutes (trains run hourly)

### From Halle's main train station

by taxi in 5 to 10 minutes or  
by tram line 7 (to Kröllwitz) alighting Moritzburg-ring