

Since its founding at the end of the 1960s, Bielefeld University has embraced interdisciplinarity as a defining institutional principle. The Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF) and the Institute for Studies of Science (ISoS) have jointly organized this lecture series to explore interdisciplinarity in both theory and practice.



Interdisciplinarity in Scientific Research Perspectives from Practice and Science Studies

This lecture series brings together theoretical reflections and practical experiences on interdisciplinarity in scientific research. The field of Science Studies has long examined the conditions, forms, and implications of interdisciplinary work. Historians, sociologists, and philosophers of science address questions such as: What distinguishes interdisciplinary from multidisciplinary research? How is knowledge integrated across disciplinary boundaries? How do interdisciplinary fields emerge and stabilize? How do researchers navigate conflicting methods, standards, and epistemic cultures in collaborative settings?

The series connects these theoretical debates with insights from research, funding, and institutional practice. It highlights interdisciplinary projects in which scholars develop innovative approaches to collaboration and design measures to foster interdisciplinary competencies.

The lecture series also offers perspectives on how funding organizations design and implement formats that promote and sustain interdisciplinary research, as well as on how research institutes host, structure, and actively support such collaboration.

*“[I]nterdisciplinarity
is a scholarly and
organizational
balancing act to be
learned by doing.”*

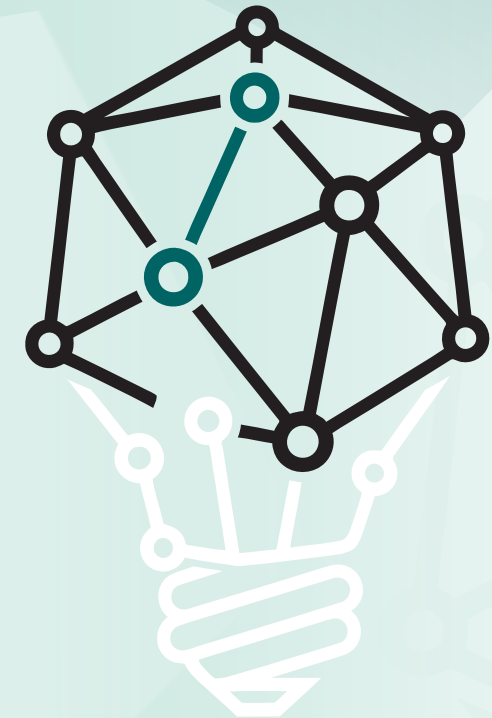
Sabine Maasen

ZiF Advisory Board Member 2017–2025

*Maasen (2000), in: Practising Interdisciplinarity
(ed. by Stehr/Weingart), p. 190.*

Interdisciplinarity in Scientific Research

Perspectives from Practice
and Science Studies



LECTURE SERIES

WINTER TERM 26/27

Interdisciplinarity in Scientific Research

Perspectives from Practice and Science Studies

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**Tuesdays,
16.15 – 17.45**

20.10.2026	Anna Kosmützky Leibniz Universität Hannover	<i>Beyond Departments: Clusterized Research as an Organizational Model of the University</i>
27.10.2026	Caterina Schürch Technische Universität Berlin	<i>How and Why Disciplines are Integrated: A Tentative Typology</i>
03.11.2026	Melinda Fagan University of Utah	<i>Explanatory Particularism in Scientific Practice</i>
10.11.2026	Jörg Niewöhner Technical University of Munich	<i>Social Studies of Chemistry – Epistemic Agonism for a Science after Progress</i>
17.11.2026	Rolf Lidskog Örebro University	<i>Science for Transformative Change: Social Sciences' Roles and Experiences in Global Environmental Assessments</i>
24.11.2026	Marie I. Kaiser, Daniela Noll-Opitz Bielefeld University (18.15 –19.45!)	<i>Interdisciplinarity as an Institutional Practice: Historical Perspectives from ZiF</i>
01.12.2026	Chris Foulds Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge	<i>Doing Social Sciences and Humanities Integration: Reflections from European Energy and Sustainability Research</i>
08.12.2026	Nancy Nersessian Georgia Institute of Technology (online via Zoom)	<i>Navigating Boundaries: An Investigation of Being Interdisciplinary</i>
15.12.2026	Hubert Knoblauch Technische Universität Berlin	<i>Social Theorizing</i>
12.01.2027	Niklas Hebing Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft Bonn Annabella Hüfler-Fick Volkswagen-Stiftung Hannover	<i>Interdisziplinarität in der Forschungsförderung der Volkswagen-Stiftung und der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft</i>
19.01.2027	Josephine Musil-Gutsch Friedrich-Alexander- Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg	<i>Towards an Integrated History of the Humanities and Sciences</i>
26.01.2027	Hanne Andersen University of Copenhagen	<i>Recent Studies of Interdisciplinarity: Challenging the Legends</i>
02.02.2027	Christiane Eilders Heinrich Heine Universität Düsseldorf Tim Majchrzak Ruhr-Universität Bochum (both Center for Advanced Internet Studies, Bochum)	<i>Herausforderungen und Chancen in interdisziplinären Leitungsteams. Erfahrungen aus der Führung eines Instituts für Digitalisierungsforschung</i>



All lectures (except for those highlighted) will take place in room V2-105/115 in the University's main building (UHG):

Universität Bielefeld
Universitätsstraße 25 | 33615 Bielefeld



The lectures highlighted in green will take place at ZiF:

Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Forschung
Methoden 1 | 33615 Bielefeld



All lectures will also be livestreamed via Zoom. Find all information on the website.

