

BfR Knowledge Dialogue: Between fear and confidence – How risks challenge society

November 2nd, 2020, Berlin





BfR Knowledge Dialogue: Between fear and confidence – How risks challenge society

Many topics may evoke fear and worry: the extinction of species, coronavirus, immigration to name a few. One could think our society is in a state of constant alarm. But is that justified? Are we inclined to exaggerate? Are we not actually living in the safest of all times?

Fear is part of life and protects us from danger. But when it turns into panic and leads to unreasonable actions, fear threatens to do more harm than good. How do you keep it under control, and how do you gain confidence? "Between Fear and Confidence: How Risks Challenge Society" is the highly topical subject to which the next BfR stakeholder conference will be devoted in a new format as the "BfR Knowledge Dialogue" on 2 November 2020 in the Magnus-Haus in Berlin.

Well-known speakers from science, philosophy and journalism will discuss fears and risks – not only in times of Covid-19.

The event will be transmitted via livestream in German and English on the Internet. You will find the link in due course at:

www.bfr-akademie.de

Venue

Magnus-Haus Berlin Am Kupfergraben 7 10117 Berlin

Please note that the venue is not barrier-free accessible.

Directions

www.dpg-physik.de

Friedrichstraße is the closest regional train and S-Bahn as well as U-Bahn station to the Magnus-Haus Berlin. It takes approximately 10 minutes to walk here.

The closest bus stop is Staatsoper.

The closest tram stop is Am Kupfergraben.

Registration

Participation fee: free of charge Registration until October 30th, 2020 www.bfr-akademie.de

Contact

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Organiser

German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) Max-Dohrn-Straße 8–10 10589 Berlin www.bfr.bund.de

Monday, November 2nd, 2020

3:00-4:00 pm registration

Moderation:



Ulrich Schnabel
Moderator, science editor and author, Hamburg

"One of the key skills of the future is the ability to endure insecurities – in work, politics and social life – and deal with them wisely."

4:00–4:15 pm **Greeting**



Prof. Dr Dr Andreas Hensel
President of the German Federal Institute for Risk
Assessment, Berlin

"Better a true uncertainty than a false certainty. If we learn this lesson, we will also find it easier to expose myths, misinformation, dogmas and errors."

4:15-4:45 pm



Prof. Dr Heinz Bude
Professor of Macrosociology, University of Kassel

"The then US Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, probably didn't have a virus in mind when he warned the post-cold war world about the unknown unknowns in 2002. Now we know that we are dealing with dangers worldwide

that cannot easily be converted into risks. This realisation is the real challenge for the ideal of a resilient society."

4:45-5:15 pm



Prof. Dr Maren Urner

Professor of Media Psychology, University for Media, Communication and Management Cologne

"If we don't talk about solutions and the future, about what do we talk?"



5:15-5:45 pm



Prof. Dr Borwin Bandelow Professor of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University of Göttingen

"Fear can paralyse us, but it can also guide us safely through life and inspire our imagination."

5:45-6:15 pm



Prof. Dr Wolfgang Freitag

Professor of Theoretical Philosophy and Philosophy of Language, University of Mannheim

"Determining the risks and rewards of events and actions is the task of science **and** society."

6:15-7:00 pm



Shary Reeves
Presenter, actress, author and producer, Cologne

"Your own confidence is determined by trusting yourself in life and to face your fears. So don't be afraid of making mistakes, that's the only way you can correct them."