

Non-University Research Institutions

This subproject of “genderDynamics” which is affiliated to the Freie Universität Berlin examines the entanglement of gender cultures and different disciplinary cultures within physics in non-university research institutions.

Apart from university research, non-university research institutions form an important part of state-funded research in Germany. In contrast to universities, non-university research institutions principally do not train students, they are dedicated completely to doing research. Nevertheless, they have also PhD students and Post Docs, but at least the former have to be affiliated to a university.

Each of these research institutions is member of one of four umbrella organizations: The Helmholtz Association of German Research Centers, the Max-Planck Society, the Fraunhofer Society or the Leibniz-Association. The umbrella organizations differ with respect to their missions, objectives and topical foci. The Max Planck Society conducts basic research, while the Helmholtz Association focuses on scientific problems of societal challenges. In turn, the Fraunhofer Society is technology- and application-orientated.

Three of these umbrella organizations are covered in this subproject: one Fraunhofer-Institute, two Helmholtz-Institutes and one Max-Planck-Institute. The four institutes differ in their physical discipline and span a wide thematical range from rather applied research, as renewable energies and photovoltaics, over experimental physics like astro-particle physics to a theoretical physical discipline, in this case theoretical astrophysics.

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