

## Venue

Villa Hügel  
Kulturstiftung Ruhr  
Hügel 15 | 45133 Essen | Germany



### Arrival by public transport:

Railway (S 6) until station "Essen-Hügel", and then follow the signs (walking distance about 300 m).

*Please note that the train station is not barrier-free.*

**Local transport:** Lines 107 or 108 until "Frankenstraße", then change to Linie 194 until the stop "Zur Villa Hügel" (walking distance about 1500 m).

### Arrival by car:

Address for the navigation device: Haraldstraße | 45133 Essen A 52 motorway exit 27 "Essen-Haarzopf" or motorway exit 28 "Essen-Rüttenscheid", and then follow the signs "Villa Hügel".

Parking spaces and marked disabled parking spaces are available on site.

### Please register for the event online under:

[www.leopoldina.org/embryo-research](http://www.leopoldina.org/embryo-research) until 28 October.

The Leopoldina is a classical scholarly society and has 1,600 members from almost all branches of science. In 2008, the Leopoldina was appointed as the German National Academy of Sciences and, in this capacity, was invested with two major objectives: representing the German scientific community internationally, and providing policymakers and the public with science-based advice.

The non-profit Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung sets standards in science, promotes engagement in art and culture and contributes to international understanding and the education of the younger generations. Since taking up its activities in 1968 the foundation has committed around 700 million € to these goals.



**Leopoldina**  
Nationale Akademie  
der Wissenschaften

# Research on human embryos

**Public discussion on research conditions and ethical views on embryonic research in the UK and Germany**

**Monday, 4 November 2019 | 18:00 – 21:30 hrs**

Villa Hügel  
Kulturstiftung Ruhr  
Hügel 15 | 45133 Essen | Germany

### Contact:

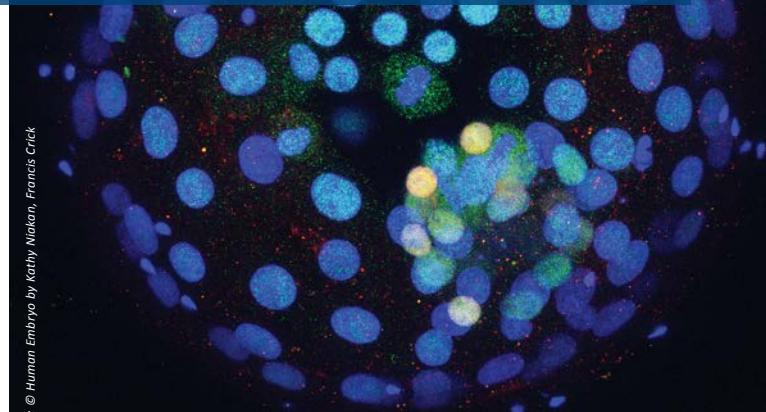
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Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation

 **Alfried Krupp von Bohlen  
und Halbach-Stiftung**

Title: © Human Embryo by Kathy Niakan, Francis Crick



# Research on human embryos

While in-vitro research on early human embryos is prohibited in Germany, British legislation permits a large number of such research approaches. But why is research on early human embryos so important? And how can we regulate it responsibly and avoid potential misuse?

Scientists from Great Britain will present the aims and results of research on human embryos. They will also clarify on what basis the British legislator has decided to permit such research and to what extent the public has been consulted. In a subsequent discussion with German ethicists and the audience, differences and similarities of the British and German approaches will be expounded.

The aim of the event is to enrich the German debate on early human embryos and to discuss the British perspective of responsible handling of embryos without completely prohibiting research.

## Programme

### 18:00 hrs | Welcome

Ursula Gather

*Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation*

Bettina Schöne-Seifert ML

*Leopoldina*

### 18:10 hrs | Impulses

#### **The importance of understanding early human development: impact for IVF and stem cells**

Kathy Niakan

*Francis Crick Institute, London, UK*

#### **Human embryo research in the UK: ethics, regulation and future prospects**

Andy Greenfield

*MRC Harwell Institute, Oxfordshire, UK*

### 18:40 hrs | Panel discussion

Andy Greenfield

*MRC Harwell Institute, Oxfordshire, UK*

Kathy Niakan

*Francis Crick Institute, London, UK*

Markus Rothhaar

*FernUniversität in Hagen*

Claudia Wiesemann

*University Medicine Göttingen*

#### **Facilitator:**

Kai Kupferschmidt

*Science journalist, Berlin*

Open discussion

### 20:00 hrs | Get together

### 21:30 hrs | End



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#### **Andy Greenfield**

is programme leader in Developmental Genetics at the Medical Research Council's Harwell Institute. His research concerns the molecular genetics of mammalian sexual development. From 2009 to 2018, he

was a member of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) and he chaired two expert panel reviews of mitochondrial donation techniques in 2014 and 2016. He is a member of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics and the International Commission on the Clinical Use of Human Germline Genome Editing.



Image: © Francis Crick

#### **Kathy Niakan**

investigates in her position as a group leader at the Francis Crick Institute (London) the mechanisms of lineage specification in human embryos and stem cells. She obtained her PhD at University of California followed by a

postdoctoral position at Harvard University. There she gained experience working with human and mouse pluripotent stem cells with a focus on understanding human embryogenesis and the regulation of pluripotency. She was the first researcher to obtain a license to alter the genome of viable human embryos in-vitro for research purposes.



Image: © Private

#### **Markus Rothhaar**

became tenured Professor of Bioethics at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt in 2014 and is at present lecturer at the FernUniversität in Hagen. He conducts theoretical research concerning genome editing processes and the moral dimension of manipulating human embryos and hybrid creatures.



Image: © Deutscher Ethikrat, Reiner Zessner

#### **Claudia Wiesemann**

is director of the Department of Medical Ethics and History of Medicine at the University Medical Center Göttingen and deputy chair of the German Ethics Council. She is a leading expert in the field of medical ethics and bioethics and has been member of several Leopoldina working groups including one that published a statement on a new reproductive medicine law for Germany.