

FUNDING INITIATIVE

Symposia

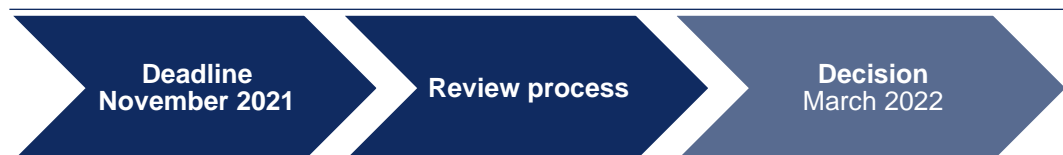
Call for Proposals

Thematic Week: Ethics of Science. Current Challenges, Opportunities and Limitations

1 – 3 June 2022

Profile Area Exploration

Deadline: 2 November 2021



August 2021

1 OBJECTIVE

Science, research and technological progress are advancing at an ever faster pace and in many cases have a major impact on everyday life, the world of work as well as social interaction. This central importance of science for modern societies became highly visible in the last year and a half of the Corona pandemic, in which scientists featured prominently in many societal debates. As became clear by that, questions of research and science ethics have an increased social significance, because a foundation for a strong and sustainable trust of society in science and research is an open, transparent and dialog-oriented approach to questions of research and science ethics. Science has a double responsibility in this respect: On the one hand, new ethical questions are uncovered and raised during part of scientific work. On the other hand, as part of society, it is responsible for not answering these questions on its own, but for discussing and negotiating regulations, limits and framework conditions together with politics, society and the broader public. However, such negotiations have to take place in an increasingly complicated relationship between science and society in which disputes are becoming more and more controversial as well as harsher in tone. Is there therefore a need for a more socially oriented ethics of science, which, for example, addresses the question of how scientists work as part of society and how they should relate to society? How well do current institutional structures for dealing with ethical aspects in science work and how could they be developed further? Is there a need for further professionalization or a broader understanding of science ethics? These are just a few of the questions that could be addressed in following up on the earlier thoughts.

Against this background, the Volkswagen Foundation is hosting a symposium week from 1 to 3 June 2022 at the conference center Xplanatorium Herrenhausen Palace in Hanover on the topic "Ethics of Science. Current challenges, opportunities and limitations". It invites applications for scientific symposia dealing in particular with questions of ethics of science in the context of the described relationship between science and society. Applications can focus on current or upcoming issues and challenges in the ethics of science, as well as aiming to address more fundamental possibilities and limits of scientific ethics. The foundation encourages an exchange of ideas beyond a purely scientific perspective by including actors from other relevant fields such as politics, science funding or management, or the wider civil society. Following this

motivation, the Foundation plans to accompany the thematic week with a public evening event to further promote the issues it addresses.

2 APPLICATION PROCESS

The call for proposals for the "Thematic Week Ethics of Science" is part of the Volkswagen Foundation's funding initiative "Symposia". Presumably, a total of three to four symposia will be funded and combined in a joint thematic week from 1 to 3 June, 2022.

Please refer to the specifications of the funding initiative "Symposia" for general conditions as well as information on the application and review procedures. Please also use the application templates provided by this initiative. Links to the corresponding documents can be found in section 3 as well as on the initiative's website.

In addition to the general requirements of the funding initiative "Symposia", applicants are requested to include the following slots into their event program

- joint welcome (1 June, 11:00 to 12:00),
- joint keynote lecture followed by dinner (2 June from 18:00), and
- joint closing (3 June, 14:00 to 15:00).

Proposals for a topic as well as a speaker for the keynote lecture are welcome.

3 CONTACT AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Information

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Further information

- [Webpage „Symposia“](#)
- [Webpage “Thematic Week Ethics of Science”](#)
- [Template Proposal \(download\)](#)
- [Application FAQs](#)
- [Electronic Application System – Instructions and Tips](#)
- [Volkswagen Foundation Electronic Application System](#)