

*"The Nobel prizes are to be given to the person who has made the most brilliant or serviceable discovery. These prizes are open to the world without distinction of class or tongue."*

Anon.: The Nobel Endowment. BMJ 1900; Nov. 24:1524.

**Friday, November 18, 2016, Mickeln House, 9 am**

#### **IV. Communicating scientific excellence**

*Chair: Matthias Krischel, Dusseldorf*

9:00 Annette Tuffs, Nuremberg: The Nobel Prize as marketing tool

9:30 Massimiano Bucchi, Trento: From Visibility to Celebrity: Nobel science laureates in the media

10:00 – 10:15 *Coffee*

10:15 Sven Widmalm, Uppsala: The Nobel Prize and the rhetoric of neutrality during the Third Reich

10:45 Thomas Schlich, Montreal: How to Define Excellence? Nobel Prizes in Surgery in the early 20th Century

11:15 – 11:30 *Coffee*

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**DFG** Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft

#### **V. How Not to Win a Nobel Prize**

*Chair: Maria Griemert, Dusseldorf*

11:30 Nils Hansson, Dusseldorf: The staging of Excellence: Mechanisms of scientific recognition in the Nobel Prize Archive for physiology or medicine 1901–1950

12:00 Ragnar Björk, Stockholm: Inside the Nobel Committee on Medicine: Prize competition procedures 1901-1950 and the fate of Carl Neuberg

12:30 Heiner Fangerau, Dusseldorf: Why not an American for the First Nobel Prize? Internationalism in medicine at the turn of the 20th Century

1:00 Final discussion, information on the planned anthology documenting the symposium, and farewell

1:30 *Lunch*

#### **Organization**

Nils Hansson, Thorsten Halling, Heiner Fangerau

#### **Contact**

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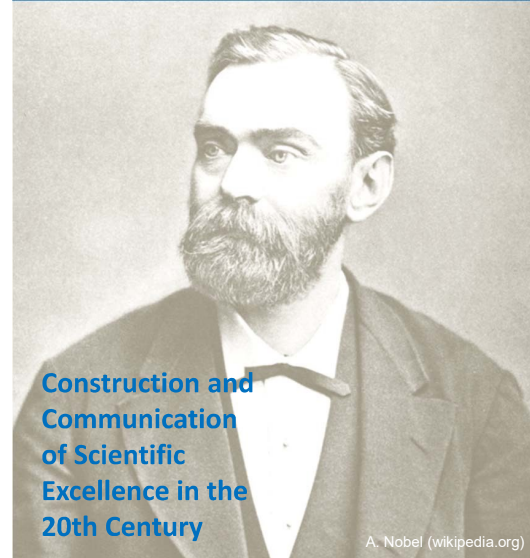
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#### **Conference venue**

Schloß Mickeln/Mickeln House, Alt-Himmelgeist 25, Dusseldorf

## Noble Research and the Nobel Prize



**Heinrich-Heine-University,  
Mickeln House**

**Dusseldorf, November 16–18, 2016**

## Synopsis

In his will of 1895, the Swedish engineer, inventor and entrepreneur Alfred Nobel laid the foundation for five prizes in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and peace to those who had "conferred the greatest benefit on mankind".

Since more than hundred years, the Nobel Prize is considered the most prestigious benchmark of scientific excellence. Today, it is used for ranking universities and gauging the scientific reputation of whole nations. This makes it the ideal example for investigating the mechanisms of scientific recognition.

We will take on this task by deconstructing the aura surrounding the award as well as the selection process of the laureates. This symposium intends to deepen our understanding of how this ultimate accolade is constructed, which processes behind the scenes result in the award and how the prize is presented to laymen all over the world.

How has excellence been enacted throughout the 20th century, and how have particular achievements been selected and acknowledged as the most excellent in their respective fields? What is the essence of scientific recognition, how has it changed over time? What impact do prestigious prizes have on various levels, from the single individual to the state, and how are they interpreted or used in terms of political actions and different forms of capital and prestige?

## Programme

*Wednesday, November 16, 2016, Mickeln House, 7 pm, arrival and welcome*

*Thursday, November 17, 2016, Mickeln House, 9 am*

9:00 am  
Welcome and introduction (Heiner Fangerau, Nils Hansson)

### Keynote

9:15 Jacalyn Duffin, Kingston/Ontario:  
Commemorating excellence: the Nobel Prize and the historical sociology of science

*10.00 Coffee*

### I. Nobel laureate biographies and networks pre- and post-Prize

*Chair: Heiner Fangerau, Dusseldorf*

10:10 Ulrike Enke, Marburg:  
„Der erste zu sein“ (To be the first one) – The Nobel Prize for the “saviour of the children”, Emil von Behring, in 1901

10:40 Aant Elzinga, Gothenburg:  
The search for a formula to make an awkward candidate compatible - the case of Albert Einstein and his Nobel prize

11:10 Axel C. Hüntelmann, Berlin:  
The networking and construction of scientific excellence. Paul Ehrlich and the Nobel Prize.

*11:40 Coffee*

## II. Noble Research and Nobel Prize narratives

*Chair: Thorsten Halling, Dusseldorf*

12:00 Scott H. Podolsky, Boston: From Global Recognition to Global Health: Antimicrobials and the Nobel Prize

12:30 David S. Jones, Boston: When Noble Research Goes Unrecognized: The Case of Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery

*1:00 – 2:00 Lunch*

## III. Research at Nobel Prize archives and at the Nobel Prize museum

*Chair: Nils Hansson, Dusseldorf*

2:00 Kalle Grandin, Stockholm:  
Archival Excellence: What answers, and furthermore what questions, do we find in the Nobel archives?

2:30 Katarina Nordqvist, Stockholm: Nobel Prize awarded discoveries and commercialization – the role of the Laureates

3:00 Gustav Källstrand, Stockholm: Organizing and Celebrating Scientific Excellence: The History of the Nobel Foundation

*3:30 – 4:00 Coffee, fruit*

**6.30-10.00 pm Public lecture** (House of the University, Dusseldorf), including plenary lecture by Erling Norrby, Stockholm:  
Nobel Prizes and Notable Discoveries Organized by the Department of the History, Theory, and Ethics of Medicine, North Rhine-Westphalian Academy of Sciences, Humanities and the Arts, House of the University