

Invitation to the public event on the evening before the GMO-free-Regions Conference

***Bound to fail* - The flawed scientific foundations of genetic engineering**

The Central Dogma is 60 years old - but has it always been the new clothes of the emperor?

Public and press event

Wednesday, September 5th 7 – 9.30 pm GLS Bank, Schumannstraße 10, 10117 Berlin

With:

- Prof. Ignacio Chapela, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, California, USA
- Prof. Jack Heinemann, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand
- Dr. Ricarda Steinbrecher, EcoNexus, Oxford, UK
- Dr. Angelika Hilbeck, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
- Dr. Sarah Agapito Tenfen, GenØk - Centre for Biosafety, Tromsø, Norway

Organizers:

- European Network of Scientists for Social and Environmental Responsibility
- GLS Gemeinschaftsbank
- Vereinigung Deutscher Wissenschaftler (VDW) (Federation of German Scientists)
- Zukunftsstiftung Landwirtschaft

Since 1972, a large practical edifice has grown out of Francis Crick's 1958 paradigmatic Central Dogma of Molecular Biology, the foundation of the scientific-technical concept of Genetic Engineering. Yet for all its powerful conceptual and financial consequences, Genetic Engineering continues to strike for its lack of truly useful applications, half a century later. "GE continues to fail to deliver on its enormous promises in all its versions – green, blue, red and white GE", says ETH-biologist Angelika Hilbeck.

In this event, noted international scientists will discuss the thesis that Crick's dogmatic paradigm might be not only flawed, but perhaps "not even wrong," in the sense of notable physicist Wolfgang Ernst Pauli. Generations of Genetic Engineering come and go in accelerating tempo, each time raising greater expectations and untold financial fortunes for savvy speculators, but the cold evidence of reality continues to point to a failure deep in its very structure and foundation. The current wave of enthusiasm for the CRISPR-Cas methods, with its claim to make good on the flawed previous wave, seems to point more to an admission of failure of the last generation of GE than to a true change of paradigm. Yet questioning the Dogma is discouraged, and debates about it run only amongst intellectual and scientific circles, without the involvement of the public.

The need for a deep and well-founded discussion about the outdated and overwhelmed fundamentals of Genetic Engineering becomes more urgent as even critics too often restrict

their focus solely on risks and regulation of each new wave of GE, without considering that the scientific foundation of their critique might also be a false, dogmatic paradigm.

Aware of the dangers associated with pointing out the nakedness of a powerful Emperor, we want to discuss these hypotheses in public on

Wednesday 5th September, 7 – 9.30 pm.

The talks and discussion will be held in English.

This event is intended for journalists and a public audience.

Participation is free of charge, but please register at <https://veranstaltungen.gls.de/index.php?page=event-code&code=FVAVD9KDGE-DE>