



Director General of Deutsches Museum Munich (2004-2025)

Professor Dr Wolfgang Heckl is widely regarded as one of the most prominent science communicators in the German-speaking world. As the long-standing Director General of the Deutsches Museum (2004–2025) and the holder of the Oskar von Miller Chair in Science Communication at the Technical University of Munich (2009–2025), he has shown that research can inspire as well as inform.

He studied physics at the Technical University of Munich, earning his doctorate in biophysics and completing his habilitation at LMU Munich in the field of scanning tunnelling microscopy. He received the Philip Morris Research Prize for his research, among other awards. He was entered into the Guinness Book of Records for creating the 'smallest hole in the world' with an atomic bit.

He has published over 350 scientific articles in total, around 200 of which have appeared in peer-reviewed journals. He has also been involved in public science communication for many years as an author, columnist, and media-savvy discussion partner. He writes the column 'Hier schreibt Heckl' (Heckl writes here) for P.M. magazine, and his book 'Die Kultur der Reparatur' (The Culture of Repair), in which he advocates rethinking resources, became a Spiegel bestseller.

He is a member of numerous scientific committees and institutions, including the German Academy of Science and Engineering (acatech), the Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics (where he is chairman of the board of trustees) and the Centre for NanoScience (CeNS). He advises the German government and the European Commission on nanotechnology and science communication.

He has received several awards for his contributions to science communication, including the Communicator Prize (2002), the EU's René Descartes Prize (2004), the Federal Cross of Merit (2008) and the Federal Cross of Merit First Class (2024). In 2020, he was awarded the Arthur Burkhardt Prize.

Wolfgang M. Heckl embodies profound expertise and extensive communication experience, as well as a clear stance on the social responsibility of science. As a speaker, he discusses research and technology in a forward-thinking manner, providing clear and objective insights into future topics.

Topics (Selection):

- The possibilities of nanotechnology - from science to investment
- Nanotechnology as an Example for Innovation
- The Value Chain from the Children's Section in the Deutsches Museum to the Nobel Prize
- Communication – A Key Technology