At this workshop, the results of the accompanying research of the funding initiative "Experiment!" of the Volkswagen Foundation will be presented. This funding initiative broke new ground in two respects: First, it was about supporting risky research projects that cannot rely on the “State of the Art” in the respective discipline and that, with regard to the research question, the theoretical approach and the methodological design are fraught with the risk that the planned results could not be achieved: actually a normal process in (basic) research, but difficult to realize with the previous and known instruments of research funding. Second, a partially randomized review process was used, i.e., the peer review was supplemented by the lottery drum. Can this be a silver bullet to strengthen the positive elements of peer review, especially the quality assurance by experienced reviewers, but also to counteract the known problems such as discipline-oriented and risk-averse reviewing? And finally, it should be about research funding: What general ideas of research to be funded guide the programs of funding organisations? Do they need more new directions, more experiments? What can be learned from international experience?

We would like to discuss these questions from the perspective of science and innovation research, science policy and research funding and cordially invite you to join us.
December 15, 2022

10.30 Arrival and snack

10.45 Welcome
Ulrike Bischler (Volkswagen Foundation)
Martina Röbbecke / Dagmar Simon (EVACONSULT)

**Keynotes**

11.00 Quests of research: excellent, original, risky, innovative and socially responsible: All inclusive?  
*(Stefan Kuhlmann, University of Twente)*

11.45 Risky research, safe pair of hands: betting on the individual in research funding  
*(Merle Jacob, Lund University)*

12:30 Lunch break

**Introductory lecture**

13.30 Risky research and lottery: New ways in research funding  
*(Martina Röbbecke, Dagmar Simon, EVACONSULT, Michael Ploder, Lisa Schön, Joanneum Research)*

14.45 Coffee break

**Risky research - the (un)known entity?**

15.15 Fundamentals of innovative research: co-creation & multiple risks.  
And what universities can do about it  
*(Sabine Maasen, University of Hamburg)*

16.00 Why risky research rarely fails: On the dynamics of strategic and technical uncertainty  
*(Jochen Gläser, Grit Laudel, Technical University Berlin)*

16.45 Concepts of originality and evidence of mastering research  
*(Eva Barlösius, Leibniz University, Hannover)*

17.30 Panel discussion with “Experiment!” grantees: Disciplinary/interdisciplinary Perspectives on risky research  
Introduction (Hemai Parthasarathy, Head of Rapid Evaluation, X Moonshot Factory,  
Bay Area/San Francisco, “Experiment!” jury member)  
“Experiment!” grantees: Olga Makarova, Vienna; Matthias May, Tübingen; Tim Landgraf, Berlin; Ursula Siebert, Hannover; Rory Wilson, Swansea; Susanne Wintzheimer, Erlangen

19.00 Dinner
December 16, 2022

Peer review and lottery in research funding: marriage of convenience, attractive liaison, or...

9:00 Effects of double-blinded peer review in Danish research funding
(Jesper W. Schneider, Danish Centre for Studies in Research & Research Policy, Aarhus)

Dispute

09.45 Input 1: Relating democratic and scientific ethos in academic self-governance. Governing science through peer review and the democratizing potential of lotteries
(Cornelia Schendzielorz, Martin Reinhart, Humboldt University, Berlin)

10.00 Input 2: Why a funding system based on lotteries and without proposals actually may be a good solution
(Lambros Roumbanis, Stockholm Centre for Organisational Research)

10.45 Coffee break

11.00 A culture of experimentation in research funding? Experiences of the RoRi project
(James Wilsdon, Sheffield University)

11.30 What do scientists think about peer review and lottery: Disciplinary Differences
(Axel Philipps, Leibniz University, Hannover)

Research funding quo vadis? Experiment and normality

12.15 Introduction
(Rainer Lange, German Science Council)

12.30 Panel discussion (chaired by Rainer Lange)
Dagmar Meyer (European Research Council), Ken Emond (British Academy), Henrike Hartmann (Volkswagen Foundation) Vanja Michel (SWISS National Science Foundation), Uwe von Ahsen (FWF Austrian Science Fund)

13.45 Snack and departure

Moderation: Gerald Wagner (freelance journalist)

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