

## AKjDPG 2: Physicists Beyond Academia

Time: Tuesday 19:00–21:30

Location: HS 2 Physik

**Invited Talk** AKjDPG 2.1 Tue 19:00 HS 2 Physik  
**Von Teilchen zu Raketen** — ●STEFFEN SCHAEPE — Deutsche Raumfahrtagentur im DLR

Die Deutsche Raumfahrtagentur im DLR nimmt für die Bundesregierung hoheitliche Aufgaben auf dem Gebiet der Raumfahrt eigenverantwortlich wahr. Dazu gehört die Durchführung eigener Missionen, die Förderung von Forschung und Entwicklung in Industrie und Wissenschaft sowie die Vertretung der Bundesrepublik in internationalen Raumfahrtgremien (ESA, EU, etc.).

Die Abteilung "Raumtransportsysteme" kümmert sich insbesondere um alle Belange, die mit Trägerraketen im weitesten Sinne zu tun haben. Insbesondere ist die Abteilung auch für die deutschen Beteiligungen an den europäischen Trägerprogrammen (Ariane, Vega, etc.) verantwortlich.

In meinem Vortrag werde ich kurz die Raumfahrtagentur vorstellen, ein wenig zu den aktuellen Themen und Schwerpunkten im Bereich der Trägerraketen in Europa erzählen, sowie die Frage beantworten, wie und wieso ich als Teilchenphysiker in diesem Umfeld gelandet bin.

**Invited Talk** AKjDPG 2.2 Tue 19:25 HS 2 Physik  
**Of course we can do that: Working as a data science consultant and software developer in mechanical engineering** — ●LENA LINHOFF — Point 8 GmbH, Dortmund, Germany

I studied physics at TU Dortmund, where I also got my PhD in astroparticle physics. During my PhD and postdoc, I worked mostly in the context of large experiments (MAGIC, CTA, SKA, LoFAR) in radio and gamma astronomy, focused on data analysis and software development. In 2023, I left academia for good to work on more ground-based problems. Since then, I work as data scientist and software

developer at Point 8 GmbH, which was founded as a startup company in 2016 by physicists also from TU Dortmund. We are mainly engaged in the field of mechanical engineering in Germany, bringing data experience and AI knowledge into industry. I will give some insights in my daily work, what qualifies me to work on industry-related topics with a background in studying far-away galaxies, and challenges I'm confronted with in times of ChatGPT.

**Invited Talk** AKjDPG 2.3 Tue 19:50 HS 2 Physik  
**Leaving Academia: A Failure? Or the Best Decision I Ever Made?** — ●EDOARDO MORNACCHI — Swabian Instruments GmbH, Stuttgart, Germany

As physicists, we dedicate years in academia, often wondering: *What happens if I step away? Is leaving academia a failure? Should I give up physics and research for a stable job? And honestly, who's going to hire someone with my expertise in hadron physics?*

Here's the thing: leaving academia isn't a failure. There are plenty of companies doing groundbreaking, high-tech research, actively seeking skilled physicists like you. And this can be the start of something new and, for someone, even better.

In this talk, I'll share my journey from nuclear/hadron physics to my current role at Swabian Instruments, where I get to keep my love for science alive while also enjoying work outside the lab. Whether you're considering a move yourself or just curious about what's out there, I hope to provide some insights and inspiration to help you carve your own path beyond academia.

**Discussion with the speakers**