

„People like us“

A Science Poetry Slam for Young Muslims

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Status Quo

- Audiences for science communication in the West often predominantly
 - male
 - older
 - highly educated
 - socio-economically better off
 - white ethnic background

Project „Science for all“ [„Wissenschaft für alle“]

- Participatory development, implementation and evaluation of science communication formats with 3 underrepresented audiences in Germany
- One of them: Young Muslims with a migration background
 - → Cooperation with two associations (*i.slam* and HEROES) as access points

Needs and Barriers

■ They...

- ... had an interest in science and technology,
- ... did not participate in science communication activities (e. g. museums, public lectures, science slams, ...),
- ... experienced discrimination because of their ethnicity and religion during their education (school or university),
- ... were not seen, and did not see themselves, as a “science person”, partly because they did not know of any scientists with the same background as them

The Format



Science-Poetry-Slam

- Place: Youth club in Berlin
- Time: 8-10 pm
- 4 poets and 3 scientists (alternating on stage)
 - They had a migration background or identified themselves as Muslims.
- One moderator from the community
- Goals:
 - Scientific role models
 - Entertaining evening in a welcoming and familiar atmosphere

Science-Poetry-Slam

■ Poets

- 2 female, 2 male
- Topics: Education, belonging, international and national politics

■ Scientists

- Early career researchers
- All female
- Topics: Medicine, mathematics and physics

Evaluation: Socio-Demographics

- **Attendees:** around 70 people
- **Gender:** 60% female, 20% male, 20% didn't say
- **Age:** average 21 years (youngest: 11 years; oldest: 40 years)
- **Education:** 24% university, 40% high school
- **Migration Background:** 56%
- **Religion:** 48% identified as Muslims

Evaluation: The Good...

- Audience was very satisfied with event (80% stated it was very good)
- 64% said they learned something new
- Majority identified with the scientists on stage (“somebody like me”)
- Combination of something familiar (poetry slam) and something new (science slam) was appreciated

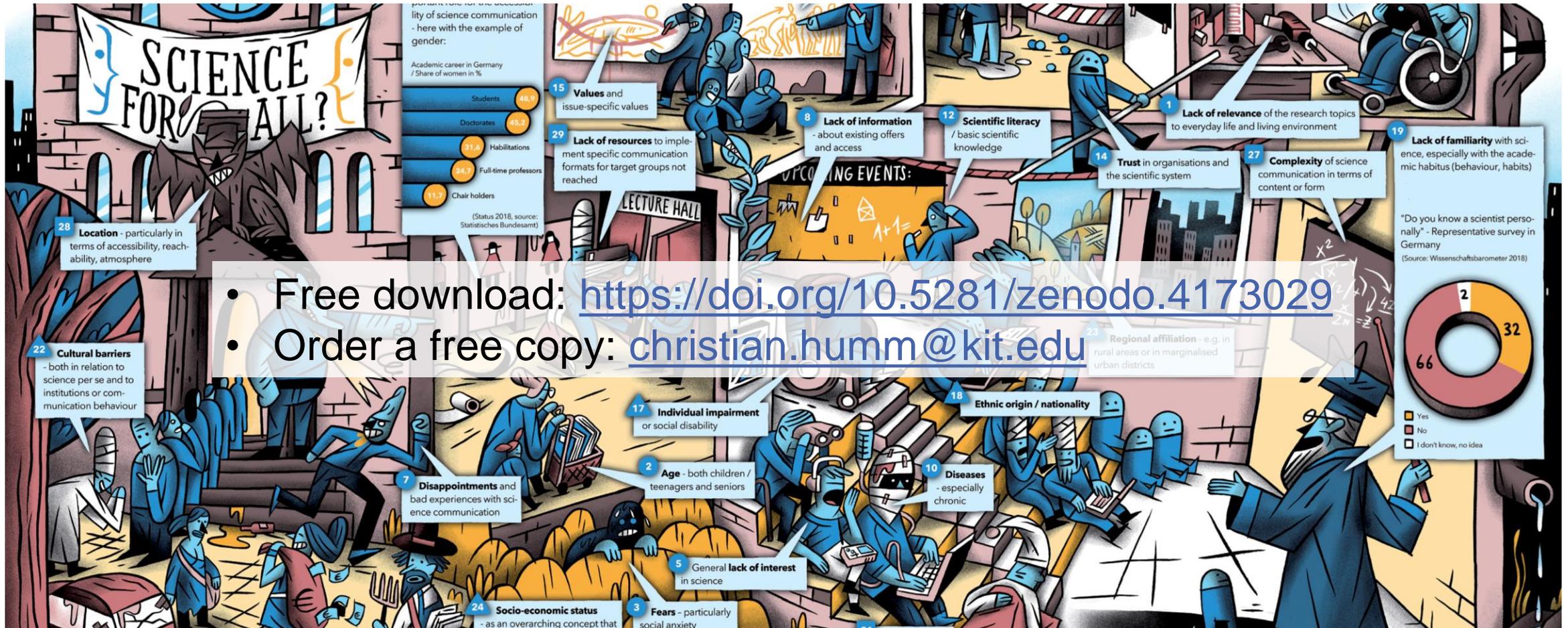
...and the not so good

- Difficult to find scientists
- Time slot was too late
- One-time activity

5 Learnings

1. Collaboration and listening is key
2. Creating space for role models and people with whom the audience can identify
3. Activities need to be sustainable (i.e. not one-time)
4. Community has to benefit (i.e. their engagement is not free)
5. Know your limits (i.e. science communication won't solve structural problems)

Trying to make it useful: A Hidden object picture



SCIENCE FOR ALL?

Barriers to science communication - here with the example of gender:

Academic career in Germany / Share of women in %

Students	48.9
Doctorates	48.2
Habilitations	31.6
Full-time professors	24.7
Chair holders	11.7

(Status 2018, source: Statistisches Bundesamt)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

LECTURE HALL

28 Location - particularly in terms of accessibility, reachability, atmosphere

22 Cultural barriers - both in relation to science per se and to institutions or communication behaviour

7 Disappointments and bad experiences with science communication

24 Socio-economic status - as an overarching concept that

3 Fears - particularly social anxiety

5 General lack of interest in science

2 Age - both children / teenagers and seniors

17 Individual impairment or social disability

10 Diseases - especially chronic

18 Ethnic origin / nationality

23 Regional affiliation - e.g. in rural areas or in marginalised urban districts

15 Values and issue-specific values

29 Lack of resources to implement specific communication formats for target groups not reached

8 Lack of information - about existing offers and access

12 Scientific literacy / basic scientific knowledge

14 Trust in organisations and the scientific system

19 Lack of familiarity with science, especially with the academic habitus (behaviour, habits)

1 Lack of relevance of the research topics to everyday life and living environment

27 Complexity of science communication in terms of content or form

"Do you know a scientist personally" - Representative survey in Germany (Source: Wissenschaftsbarometer 2018)

Yes	66
No	32
I don't know, no idea	2

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