



A guide to the

Living Handbook of Science Communication and Science Studies



rhine ruhr
center for science communication
research

Building Bridges

Living

To do justice to the dynamic changes in science and the media we decided on the format of a *Living Handbook*: it presents its subject matter by means of connected items and is continuously updated and extended. Curated topic collections deliver background information on current events.

Research Articles

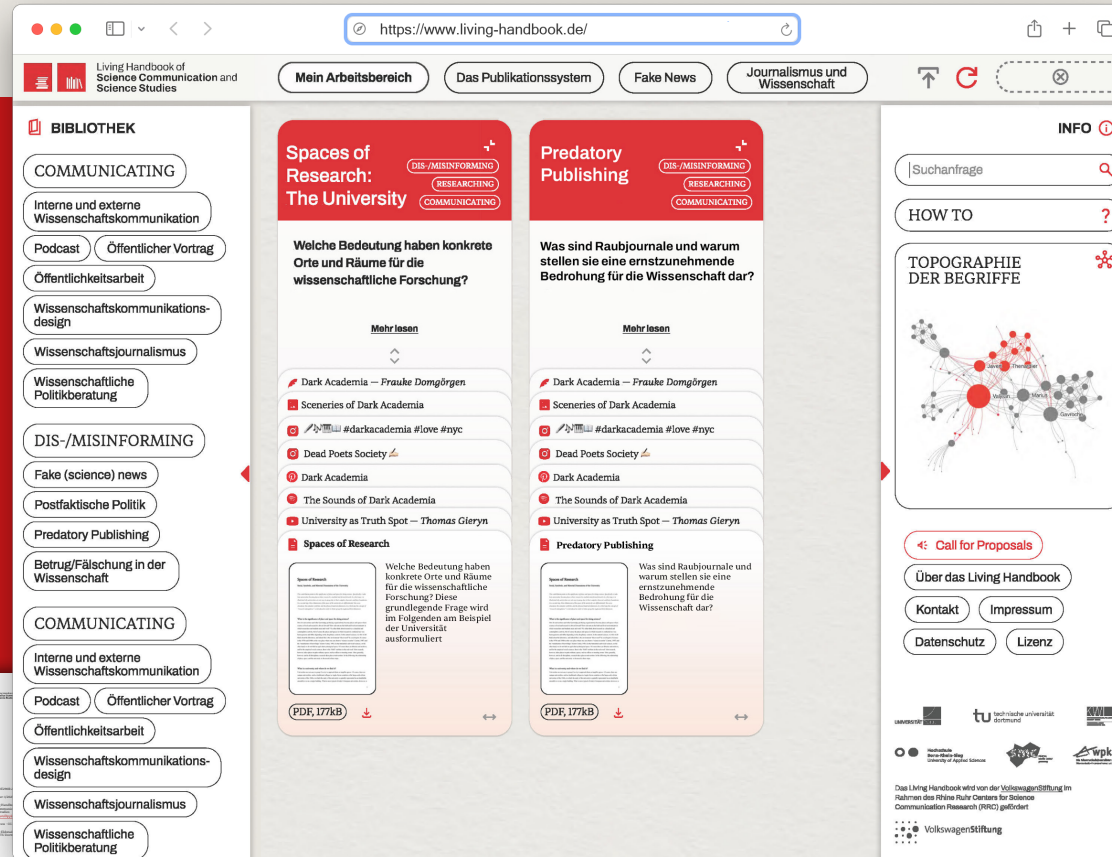
The research articles—in the style of a citable handbook contribution—provide an overview of the current state of research on the respective keyword.

They also open up new perspectives on the topic, marking open questions and ambivalences, and building bridges between theory and practice.



Popular Science Items

Every section includes space for curated popular items: essays, videos, podcasts, image galleries, and social media content allow us to approach the respective topic in an entertaining, analytical, and surprising fashion.



Interactive Work Surface

A customizable desktop invites you to explore and experiment: Here, items from the library can be stored, arranged, searched, and exported as collections. A topography of concepts—a semantically networked map of all the terms—provides guidance.

Building Bridges

What is predatory publishing, who evaluates academic papers, and how do appointment committees work? What is the appropriate format for communicating my research and where does science have a social impact?

The *Living Handbook of Science Communication and Science Studies* contains information about the science system and communication between research and society.

It is a freely accessible online platform covering topics, findings, and concepts deriving from science and technology studies, science communication research, and science communication practice.

The *Living Handbook* does not just address the scientific community but also practitioners in journalism, science communication, and science management as well as students and interested members of the public.

In order to achieve a scientifically sound yet accessible presentation of science in the public realm, experts from research and practice have jointly identified and worked on topics—in both academic articles and popular science items.

Call for Contributions

To continue developing the *Living Handbook* we are looking for research articles and popular formats that throw light on the science system and science communication from the standpoint of both research and practice.

Each **research article** should deal with a certain topic, be approximately five pages in length and written in English. We will provide editorial support:

- double-blind peer review
- English editing/proofreading
- citable publication:
DOI and open-access publication
- no submission charge or submission deadline

If you have an idea for a **popular science item** or know of one, we should be pleased to receive:

- content that opens up new perspectives and addresses a wide audience
- a wide variety of formats—such as essays, photos, videos or podcast episodes

If you would like to become part of the *Living Handbook* and submit an article or suggest a topic, we look forward to hearing from you.



www.rhine-ruhr-research.de/living-handbook

About

Fake news, excessive relativism or the active discrediting of science and journalistic media are obvious symptoms of a crisis of truth. This crisis, however, reaches deeper, it manifests itself, for example, more fundamentally in the uncertainty when dealing with multiple facts and with plural, value-laden perspectives. Science itself must respond to this challenge with new approaches to science communication. This involves not only communicating the results of individual disciplines, but also knowledge about the science system itself and about the diversity and limits of reliable scientific findings. The *Rhine Ruhr Center for Science Communication Research* (RRC), funded by the *Volkswagen Foundation*, addresses precisely this point. It seeks to reorganise both the content of science communication and the structures of science communication research in order to enable the public to engage more actively with science and thus improve their factual judgement.

As a joint project of *TU Dortmund University*, the *Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities Essen*, the *University of Bonn* and *Bonn-Rhine-Sieg University of Applied Sciences*, the RRC benefits from an interdisciplinary as well as international network. Together with its cooperation partners at the *Science Media Center Germany* and the *German Science Journalists' Association*, the RRC is able to develop and implement communication and research infrastructures that will have a lasting impact on the dense research and media landscape in North Rhine-Westphalia.