

FH seminar program taskforce: first results and open discussion items.

Mandate

Seminars and colloquia serve to educate, inform and inspire local researchers about scientific developments. The covered topics range from detailed technical discussions to broad overview presentations.

Researchers from different groups discuss across and beyond working group boundaries. At seminar events, individuals have an opportunity to get to know each other and discuss informally. Speakers can gain visibility and advertise their expertise and achievements.

The DESY FH seminar programme should consist of a variety of periodic events targeting different audiences and levels of detail.

Status

Since its initiation, the Seminar Programme Taskforce has met regularly to:

- **take stock** of the current DESY seminar/colloquia programme
- **collect and discuss requirements** of an ideal programme
- develop a **proposal for updates** of the existing programme
- develop a proposal for **improved communication** and announcement of upcoming events
- discuss the role of **hybrid events** in "post-COVID" times
- discuss about **possible other inputs** (e.g. an FH-wide survey and input from other sites)

For more information, see here: <https://indico.desy.de/category/937>

First results

Programme:

- We consider the **current FH DESY seminar programme** as largely **successful, comprehensive, coherent and attractive**.
- Seminars are partially co-organized with other DESY divisions or the UHH, e.g. the DESY FH+AP Colloquium (with AP) and the instrumentation seminar (with FS and UHH). **Such collaborations are a plus.**
- We propose a few **small but significant modifications** to:
 - widen the range of topics,
 - deepen the level of detail,
 - enhance participation.

Communication:

- Propose to manage FH Seminars via **one central DESY FH seminar indico** page:
 - The **indico calendar view** facilitates a **simple, synoptic overview** of all upcoming and past seminars and could be used for the newsletter and on TV screens in hallways and coffee areas.
 - Significantly improved level of transparency to
 - **increase seminar attendance,**
 - help chairs **balance different seminar events in time and topic,**
 - ensure a limited number of events per week.
- Announcements:
 - via posters and newsletters as before;
 - **via email should be made more coherent** (avoid duplicate emails by reviewing/restructuring email lists).

Hybrid seminars:

- **Pros:**
 - Maximize the number of participants
 - Useful when seminar rooms are small
 - Useful for speakers that are unable to travel or live very far away
 - Hamburg and Zeuthen events could be combined
- **Cons:**
 - Participants tend to remain in their offices. Discourage this as much as possible.
 - **Less focus, inspiration and communication between participants and speakers.**
 - Competition with hybrid seminars at other institutes.
- Propose to make hybrid test-run with selected events to try the following measures:
 - **Supervisors should act as role models.**
 - Establish "hybrid" communication standards, e.g. self-introduction of people speaking, optimal acoustic equipment in seminar rooms.
 - Registration to receive the Zoom link for online participation could impose a "symbolic threshold" for those on campus.

Draft Indico calendar view

FH Seminar task force proposal

Events overview

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5 11:00 FH Discussion, TED, Speaker 15:00 Theory Seminar, TED, Speaker	6 10:00 FH Colloquium, TED, Speaker	7	8	9
12 15:00 Theory Seminar, TED, Speaker	13	14	15	16 14:00 Instrumentation, TED, Speaker
19 11:00 FH Discussion, TED, Speaker 15:00 Theory Seminar, TED, Speaker	20	21 14:30 Theory Colloquium, TED, Speaker	22	23
26 15:00 Theory Seminar, TED, Speaker	27	28	29	30

<https://indico.desy.de/category/682/overview?date=2022-09-19&period=month&detail=event>



Open discussion

- Is there interest in a **DESY-wide** Colloquium, organized jointly by the various DESY divisions?
Such an event would only take place once every few months.
 - **Pros:**
 - Better insight in other disciplines on the DESY campus
 - QU seminar exists, covering already FH/AP, but it excludes M and FS
 - **Cons:**
 - Possibly very large and diverse audience
→ hard for speakers to optimize presentations
- Is the proposed programme complete or should we introduce other possible events, e.g.
 - TED-talk style presentations (also beyond FH)
 - in-reach events, also for technical and admin personnel
 - social events (à la Science Café for all DESY personnel)
- Do you have additional suggestions for specific seminars?



Feedback wanted

- We invite for feedback and input of any kind.
- Wishes, ideas, and general observations are welcome.
- Based on feedback we plan to perform a survey regarding the general DESY FH seminar landscape in the near future.