



Contribution ID: 71

Type: **Lightning Talk**

Communicating the abstract through laughter: Quantum physics meets improvisation theater

Wednesday 18 March 2026 11:55 (5 minutes)

Science communication thrives when abstract concepts become lived experience. Building on two successful pilot performances in 2025 of “Quantum meets Improv” this talk presents a mobile, participatory improvisation theater format that will bring the fundamentals of quantum physics into small-town, low science capital venues across southern Germany in 2026. By pairing brief, researcher-led introductions with audience-prompted improv games the project transforms notoriously counter-intuitive ideas (superposition, entanglement, tunnelling) into embodied, humanized and humorous narratives. The format also includes and embeds a “Meet-a-Scientist” dialogue with 5-7 scientists in the break and after the show that personalizes researchers and demystifies the scientific process.

During the lightning talk I will (1) outline the pedagogical rationale behind experiential quantum storytelling, (2) share short examples of how improv mechanics map onto quantum principles, and (3) discuss potential scalability and its shortcomings.

By demonstrating that humor, spontaneity, and direct interaction can make quantum physics accessible beyond elite academic circles, this project offers a replicable blueprint for immersive science outreach that bridges the gap between cutting-edge research, creates dialogue between researchers and lay audiences and increases everyday curiosity.

Workshops only: Duration

Workshops only: participants

Workshops only: Equipment

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Session Classification: Plenary session

Track Classification: Lightning talk