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Rotting Skin

and other quirks of German Science Fiction 2024

I'm free,
take me!



ANDROMEDA SFMAGAZIN 159
SCIENCEFICTIONCLUBDEUTSCHLAND.EV

Stricker

poetry texts are also welcome. It is important that the writers find their own narrative form that makes their thoughts and feelings accessible: What will life in Germany, Europe and the world look like in 2050?

The jury assesses the conciseness of the narrative, the variety and originality of the ideas, the scientific and technical innovations, the style of language, the surprising moments in the story, the unusual message—in other words, everything that is out of the ordinary today and encourages readers to think about their own future, which can still be shaped today. The prize is awarded in the two categories children and young people as well as adults.

At least ten entries in each category will be published in a prize anthology as a hardcover book and e-book by Hirnkost Verlag and will each receive a prize of 300 euros. If selected entries have the format of a stand-alone novel, they will be published in a separate volume and the authors will receive an author contract from Hirnkost, which includes a guaranteed fee of 2,000 euros.

Further information:

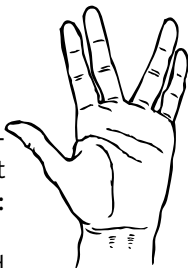
<https://klimazukuenfte2050.de/>

To boldly go where no man has gone before ...

By Sylvana Freyberg

Most of you know this opening line of one of the most famous and beloved Series: Star Trek.

Star Trek is characterised above all by the technology of the future it depicts. It is interesting that the writers who wrote the stories we enjoy so much were honoured



by the National Space Club in Washington in the 1960s for the scientific accuracy of the Original Series. And to this day, the writers don't just come up with new terms, but also with more or less plausible explanations.

It doesn't matter which of the series and spin-offs you watch, there are many terms coined by Star Trek, e.g. warp drive, the more recent spore drive, or our favourite, the instantaneous hopping from one place to another, beaming.

But do you know the science behind it all? Would it really be possible one day to beam to the next convention instead of driving or flying? The writers introduced a communicator, and today we have our mobile phones. Right? We can hope ...

In Germany we have two physics professors who also enjoy watching the series and are Star Trek experts: Professor Hubert Zitt and professor Metin Tolan. They both explain the technology and other background information in lectures in an entertaining yet sophisticated way. It is particularly interesting to see which technical visions of science fiction authors have already become or could soon become reality.

You don't need to have an understanding of physics to be amazed and entertained by them.

Prof. Metin Tolan is a physicist and university lecturer (fig. 1). He has been president of Goettingen University since 2021. In addition to his scientific work, he devotes himself to the humorous-physical examination of soccer, film, and television. For example, he gives lectures on topics such as "The physics of soccer", "The physics of James Bond", "The physics of Star Trek" and "Titanic—More than just a sinking." As an avowed Trekkie, he examines the physical feasibility of inventions, stunts, and film effects, and also compares the



Figure 1: Metin Tolan 2021. Photo: Jan Vetter.

films with historical reality (e.g. Titanic), or (as an VfB Stuttgart fan) presents a formula that predicts the position of the German team in the next soccer World Cup.

In 2023, the MetropolCon team (see page 15) invited him to give a lecture on Star Trek physics.

Further Information:

Shaken, Not Stirred!—James Bond in the Spotlight of Physics, Springer, 2020, 978-3-030-40108-5

Prof. Hubert Zitt is a computer science lecturer at Kaiserslautern University of Applied Sciences on the Zweibrücken campus. He gave his first lecture on the physics and technology of Star Trek in 1996 as a Christmas lecture at his University. Since 2005, he has also been giving Star Trek lectures in other cities (fig. 2), both at universities and at specialist conferences organised by companies, as well as events such as FedCon, Europe's largest science fiction convention.

Further information:

<https://www.startrekvorlesung.de>



Figure 2: Star Trek lecture in 2014. Hubert Zitt with over 800 Star Trek fans in the main auditorium of the University of Magdeburg. Photo: Eroll Popova.