

Volume 2024 Issue 6

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# Bulletin of the Rebellious Scientific Society

## Editorial Note

*Welcome to the first newsletter of Scientist Rebellion Germany! The climate crisis intensifies, and despite a vast amount of scientific evidence, our chancellor Olaf Scholz still resists to tell the truth about the crisis' likely catastrophic consequences for our planet and civilization. Hence, we focus in this issue on the responsibility of scientists to disrupt denial and business as usual, walk the talk and support the demand of the independent campaign "Hungern bis ihr ehrlich seid!" (starving until your are honest). The main contribution to this bulletin is a short analysis and motivational statement on why scientists should engage in non-violent civil disobedience and join Scientist Rebellion. May these words speak for themselves and convince you to join the rebellion!*

## Ongoing actions





We as scientists rebellion stand in solidarity and support the independent campaign “[Hungern bis ihr ehrlich seid!](#)” (“Starving until you are honest!”), which has now been ongoing for 92 days, with Wolfgang Metzeler-Kick (since March 07th), Richard Cluse (since March 25th), Adrian Lack (since May 07th), and Titus Feldmann (since May 16th) being on unlimited hunger strike. The camp is currently situated in [Invalidenpark](#) near Berlin Central Station and urgently needs volunteers to manage the info point, assist with construction and reconstruction, organize program events, and, most importantly, support the hunger strikers! Feel free to contact [general@hungern-bis-ihr-ehrlich-seid.de](mailto:general@hungern-bis-ihr-ehrlich-seid.de) or join the [Signal group](#).



Of note, Scientist Rebellion is not part of the hunger strike campaign. However, Scientist Rebellion Germany respects the freedom to act. We have expressed our solidarity by organizing symbolic days of short, limited fasts that ca. 50 people joined. Please find their statements [here](#).

The demand of the hunger strikers is that the chancellor releases the following scientific facts in a governmental statement:

1. The continued existence of human civilization is extremely endangered by the climate catastrophe.
2. There is no longer any remaining CO2 budget because there are already hundreds of gigatons too much CO2 in the air.
3. We have to radically change course now, even if it is years late.

## Why joining Scientist Rebellion?

Scientists have spent decades writing papers, advising governments, briefing the press: all have failed - global green house gas emissions are still rising. What is the point in documenting in ever greater detail the catastrophe we face, if we are not willing to do anything about it?

### **Walk the Talk**

Started by two physicists in the UK in 2020, Scientist Rebellion has grown into a global movement of more than 2000 scientists in over 30 countries. Our central dogma is "Walk the Talk". How can we expect the public to grasp the escalation of the climate and ecological crisis, if those who know most about it and its consequences carry on as usual? All conventional ways of informing the public about the urgency of the crisis have failed to initiate the all-encompassing political, economic and social transformation which is required to save us from global cataclysm. Marches, petitions, talks - all have their places. But business-as-usual is stubbornly defended by those profiting from it, that only civil resistance remains as an effective tool to push for real change in the short time left.

### **The science is clear, what went wrong?**

Far too long we believed the common narrative that science triggers change. At first, we thought that politics would react to our warnings because we are paid from public money to create knowledge that helps politicians to navigate society safely through a changing world. Now we know that lobbyists of the fossil fuel industry are much tighter connected to those in power, and that short-term political goals are what drives political decisions. Then, we thought that if we inform the public, they will demand the necessary changes from politics. However, the fossil fuel industry invested millions in disinformation campaigns - planting doubts and climate denial in the minds of so many, see [OC10,OC11,C24]. While the crisis was unfolding, denial of the painful truth and anxiety of what will come made people feel powerless, most of us still thought that if we outline pathways out of the climate crisis and into a safer future, politics would follow suit. We have been terribly wrong.

### **The levers of power**

We have to come to terms with the fact that power overrules knowledge. More knowledge, more facts, won't save us. That's a bitter pill to swallow for those who love to create knowledge and who have found their niches in researching our beloved world, be it in the Earth and natural sciences, sociology, psychology, medicine, economics etc. However, being tucked in our scientific comfort zones, we lose sight of the tools of power that lie in our hands: our reputation, our global connections, our ability to analyze and make complexity become digestible, and our longing to contribute to a better world. So let's use these tools, even if it means that we have to step out of our cozy niches.

### **A call to action**

We are scientists and academics. As those who hold the power around the world continue to lead us further into climate catastrophe, we need to rise from our desks.

This is a call to action. We invite scientists from all disciplines, from students to professors, researchers and academics alike, to join us in our fight against climate failure.

## Topics of upcoming bulletins

"I am not an Earth scientist. Why bother?"

"I am already doing so much and feel offended by you telling me it's not enough."

"Civil disobedience is ridiculous. I am not that kind of person."

"Taking action would risk my neutrality."

## Become a fellow, join the rebellion!

To join our community, we invite every newcomer to attend an introductory online meeting. Find the next one [here](#). We will present you our philosophy, recent activities and how you can contribute to our effort. Additional information is available in [\[SR24\]](#).

## References

[OC10] Oreskes, Naomi, and Erik M. Conway. *Defeating the merchants of doubt*. Nature 465.7299 (2010): 686-687

[OC11] Oreskes, N., & Conway, E. M. (2011). *Merchants of doubt: How a handful of scientists obscured the truth on issues from tobacco smoke to global warming*. Bloomsbury Publishing USA.

[C24] Cologna, V., Kotcher, J., Mede, N. G., Besley, J., Maibach, E. W., & Oreskes, N. (2024). *Trust in climate science and climate scientists: A narrative review*. PLOS Climate

[SR24] <https://scientistrebellion.de/>



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