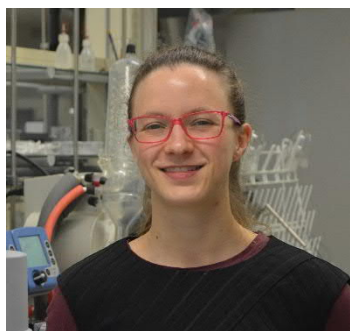




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Max-Planck-Institut
für Kohlenforschung

From Massachusetts to Mülheim: Constanze Neumann starts as an independent Group Leader at the MPI für Kohlenforschung



Dr. Constanze Neumann

Within the context of the Lise-Meitner-Excellence-Program, the Max-Planck-Society offers about ten exceptionally qualified female scientists the opportunity to set up an independent research group at an institute of their choice and establish an independent research career. Dr. Constanze Neumann was able to prevail in the selection procedure, and has been based at the Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung since the beginning of July. She is 32 years old and has previously worked as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA. Her independent research in Mülheim will concentrate on catalysis with metal-organic

frameworks and nanoparticles.

“Corona made the move to Germany quite challenging!”, the scientist says laughingly. Her flight to Germany was postponed several times, and her entry into Germany only worked out seamlessly because of her German citizenship and the low caseload prevalent in Massachusetts. Moreover, the further development of the group consisting of students and postdocs who apply from all over the world has been rendered challenging by COVID-19.

Connie Neumann has convinced a panel of experts with her scientific skills and her determination: “With my own research group at the MPI I’ve been given the opportunity to realize a step in my career towards which I have worked for a long time. I can’t wait to work on the development of new catalysts with my team”, she says. Constanze Neumann is interested in the behaviour of catalysts in which two or more metals act cooperatively, as well as in the application of porous materials to precisely arrange reactive centers in 3-dimensional space. She plans to focus on chemical reactions that do (or might) find industrial application. Already from her home office in the United States, she began setting up her lab. “The MPI offers an excellent infrastructure for research, and I am particularly looking forward to work with a special instrument for atomic layer deposition which will be able to construct surface layers on a material with atomic precision.”

Connie hasn't had much time yet to explore Mülheim. „Many things need to be prepared and I want to provide my future coworkers with everything they need for a successful start.” As a nature lover she seizes her Saturdays to enjoy the local greenspaces and to get to know the city. She regrets the current prevalence of fake news and many people's willingness to believe in it: “If you work hard to to refine our knowledge of the world, and strive every day to separate fact from fiction, it is sad to see how many people are willing to trust a random article on the internet over the word of a scientist.”, she explains.

About Constanze Neumann

Constanze Neumann was born in Germany in 1988 and grew up in Austria. She studied chemistry at the University of Oxford and successfully completed her studies with a master's degree in 2010. Afterwards she pursued her doctorate with Professor Tobias Ritter at the Harvard University in Cambridge, USA. In 2017 she began to work as a Postdoctoral Research Associate with Professor Mircea Dinca at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA where her research focused on sustainable production of alcohols. The Lise-Meitner-Program offers Constanze Neumann the possibility of a long-term career in the Max-Planck-Society. She is will lead her group at the MPI für Kohlenforschung for five years, after which she may qualify for a fixed W2-position within the scope of the so-called tenure track procedure.

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