**PROGRAM**

# DIGITAL <DIS>ORDERS

**7TH ANNUAL GRADUATE CONFERENCE**
OF THE CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE "THE FORMATION OF NORMATIVE ORDERS"

**17-19 NOVEMBER 2016**
**GOETHE UNIVERSITY FRANKFURT / CAMPUS WESTEND**

GOETHE
UNIVERSITÄT
FRANKFURT AM MAIN

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Internet
TBD

NORMATIVE ORDERS
Exzellenzcluster an der Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main

# INTRODUCTION

In the popular and academic discourses, computers and their networks seem to be in a state of perpetual novelty and chaos. This is evident in the proliferation of buzzwords and new technologies that are constantly about to overthrow existing orders. Discourses about Big Data, social media, cloud computing or the Internet of things present digitalization as a social revolution without end.

There are, however, several reasons to doubt this air of novelty. Worldwide Internet penetration is over 40%, and mobile broadband penetration in the OECD is over 80%. Many scholars consider Internet access to have become a basic human right. Computer assisted fraud has been a criminal practice for four decades, and the incident best approximating international cyber warfare occurred almost ten years ago. So-called digital natives are aging rapidly, and their aesthetic imperative has become mainstream. Whatever their revolutionary potential in the *longue durée*, computers, their data and their networks have become a mundane, ubiquitous and assumed feature of everyday life.

We welcome you to reflect with us on our arrival in digital normality so as to better understand the dynamics of digital order and disorder. We will touch upon such topics as the features and production of space in a digital society, the political economy of media and artistic production, the politics and modes of rule in the digital/posthuman age, the diffusion of responsibility in algorithmically controlled processes, and the social practices and subjectivities produced and assumed in a world of ubiquitous connections and computers. Beyond these more academic engagements with the subject matter, we are happy to host a number of artistic interventions that challenge intuitive understandings of the forms of digital society and present alternative, creative representations of digital realities. These range from interactive demonstrations of textual data-mining; a video installation challenging the pre-determination of emotions through facial recognition technology; live, choreographed web design; and more. We have included other unconventional events in the program, like the mini-saloons and party, to provide time and opportunity to converse about these topics, the questions they provoke and the ideas they inspire.

Finally, it is our privilege to welcome two keynote speakers who have indelibly marked our thoughts on and appreciation of digital culture. On Thursday evening Louise Amoore, Professor of Geography at Durham University, will present her thoughts *On Intuition: Machine Learning and Posthuman Ethics*, exploring what the 'agency' and 'intelligence' of machines implies for ethics. And on Friday evening Zach Blas, renowned Artist and Lecturer in the Department of Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths University, will elaborate his thoughts on *Contra-Internet*, a project that explores subversions of and alternatives to the Internet.

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

| THURSDAY 17.11.2016 | CAMPUS WESTEND, BUILDING "NORMATIVE ORDERS" | |
|---|---|---|
| 14:30-15:30 | **Lobby \|** Registration | |
| 15:30-16:00 | **EG.01 \|** Welcome Address<br>**Prof. Dr. Christopher Daase (Coordinator of the International Graduate Program, Cluster of Excellence "The Formation of Normative Orders")** | |
| 16:00-16:30 | Coffee Break | |
| 16:30-18:30 | **PANEL SESSION 1** | |
| | **EG.01 \| THE ECONOMICS OF THE DIGITAL**<br><br>**Natalie Rauscher (Heidelberg):**<br>Digital Inequality: The United States and the Rise of the Sharing Economy<br><br>**Dr. Philipp Staab (Hamburg):**<br>The Consumption Dilemma of Digital Capitalism<br><br>**Yannick Schütte (Lüneburg):**<br>Digital Data Dispossession and Capitalisation | **5.01 \| DIGITAL SPACIALITIES**<br><br>**Jakob Claus (Lüneburg):**<br>On Questions of Environmental Agency<br><br>**Moritz Ahlert (Hamburg):**<br>The Order of Visual Maps<br><br>**Lila Athanasiadou (Delft):**<br>Just a Simulation: Limitations and Potentiality of Modelling Urban Processes Digitally<br><br>**Gian Luigi Scarpa (Berlin):**<br>Remnants and Revenants Part II: Hauntings of the Digital |
| 18:30-19:00 | Coffee Break | |
| 19:00-20:00 | **KEYNOTE ADDRESS** | |
| | **EG.01 \| ON INTUITION: MACHINE LEARNING AND POSTHUMAN ETHICS**<br>**Prof. Dr. Louise Amoore (Durham)** | |

| FRIDAY 18.11.2016 | CAMPUS WESTEND, BUILDING "NORMATIVE ORDERS" | |
|---|---|---|
| **10:30-12:00** | **PANEL SESSION 2** | |
| | **EG.01 \| DEVICES OF DIGITAL RULE**<br><br>**Janosik Herder (Osnabrück):**<br>What Is Information? From Cryptography to a Regime of Truth<br><br>**Anna-Verena Nosthoff (Frankfurt/M) & Felix Maschewski (Berlin):**<br>Order from Noise? Reflections on the Cybernetic Condition of Digitality<br><br>**Nikos Voyiatzis (Rotterdam/Athens):**<br>The Effect of the List | **5.01 \| POST-HUMAN POLITICS**<br><br>**Kiran Banerjee (Toronto):**<br>Arendt and the Algorithm: Rereading the Human Condition in the Digital Age<br><br>**Max Koch-Grünberg (Berlin):**<br>Torn between Truths: Self-fulfilling Prophecies and the Production of Uncertainty<br><br>**Jakob Tonda Dirksen (London):**<br>On Digital Politics |
| **12:30-14:00** | **EG.01 \|** Lunch | |
| **14:00-15:30** | **ARTISTIC INTERVENTION** | |
| | **5.01 \| *I-COULD-HAVE-WRITTEN-THAT***<br>**Manetta Berends (Rotterdam)**  (max. 30 participants) | |

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

| FRIDAY 18.11.2016 | CAMPUS WESTEND, BUILDING "NORMATIVE ORDERS" | |
|---|---|---|
| 15:30-16:00 | Coffee Break | |
| 16:00-17:30 | PANEL SESSION 3 | |
| | **EG.01 \| MEDIA, KNOWLEDGE AND RELATIONS**<br><br>**Nicolas Oxen (Weimar):**<br>Instagrammatology: The Politics and Aesthetics of Smartphone Photography<br><br>**Philipp Sack (Braunschweig):**<br>Queries, or: What Comes after the Death of "Commonsensical Empiricism"?<br><br>**Robert Ziegelmann (Heidelberg):**<br>Imagination and Distance: Does Digital Media Abolish Humanity? | **5.01 \| STATES, NORMS, CITIZENS**<br><br>**Matthias Schulze (Jena):**<br>From Cyber-Utopia to Cyber-War: Advocacy Coalitions and Normative Change in Cyberspace<br><br>**Linda Monsees (Bremen):**<br>Dynamics of De-/Politicization in the Technological Society<br><br>**Katharin Tai (Oxford):**<br>Chinese Internet Governance |
| 17:30-18:00 | Coffee Break | |
| 18:00-19:00 | KEYNOTE ADDRESS | |
| | **EG.01 \| CONTRA-INTERNET**<br>**Dr. Zach Blas (London)** | |
| 19:00-23:00 | **5th floor \|** Dinner & Party | |

| SATURDAY 19.11.2016 | CAMPUS WESTEND, BUILDING "NORMATIVE ORDERS" | |
|---|---|---|
| 10:00-10:45 | ARTIST TALK | |
| | EG.01 \| CHOOSE HOW YOU FEEL; YOU HAVE SEVEN OPTIONS<br>Ruben van de Ven (Rotterdam) | |
| 11:00-12:30 | PANEL SESSION 4 | |
| | EG.01 \| DIGITALISING SUBJECTIVITY<br><br>Tanja Wiehn (Berlin):<br>The Digital Postponement of Death<br><br>Pierre Schwarzer (Witten/Herdecke):<br>Social Media and the Primary Process | 5.01 \| DIGITAL ART & CULTURE<br><br>Tobias Muno (Hamburg):<br>Post Some Internet Shit<br><br>Philipp Hindahl (Frankfurt/M):<br>The Interesting: An Aesthetic of Work and Networks in Tom McCarthy's Satin Island<br><br>Thomas Meckel (Lüneburg):<br>Social Theatre under New Conditions |
| 12:30-13:00 | 5th floor \| Lunch | |
| 13:00-14:30 | ARTISTIC INTERVENTION & MINI-SALOONS | |
| | EG.01 \| A WEBPAGE IN THREE ACTS<br><br>Joana Chicau (Rotterdam) | 5TH FLOOR \| TOPICAL MINI-SALOONS<br><br>Continuing conversations on topics that emerge during the conference in a casual atmosphere |

# KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Thursday, 17 November**
**19:00-20:00**
**Normative Orders EG.01**

## ON INTUITION: MACHINE LEARNING AND POSTHUMAN ETHICS

**PROF. DR. LOUISE AMOORE**

Whether in Intuitive Surgical's Vinci surgical robots or in the geopolitics of automated weaponry, drones, and intelligence gathering, machine learning algorithms and operatives are trained for future action via the patterns of ingested past data. What kind of ethics is possible in the context of the intuitive learning of a posthuman composite? Can this form of cognition and action be meaningfully held accountable? As Katherine Hayles has written, "what is lethal is not the posthuman as such, but the grafting of the posthuman onto a liberal humanist view of the subject." Thus, as contemporary legal cases proliferate, they persistently seek an identifiable human subject to call to account—a specific surgeon who made a mistake, a particular drone pilot or analyst who wrongfully targeted—who is often called the "human in the loop" of semi-supervised machine learning. Yet, machine learning is precisely changing the nature of what it means to be human, so that the errors of a neural net must involve an expanded and distributed sense of ethics. In this work I propose an alternative mode of ethics capable of responding to the intuitive learning of human and algorithm.

*Louise Amoore is a Professor at the Department of Geography at Durham University. She researches and teaches in the areas of global geopolitics and security, and has particular interests in how contemporary forms of data, analytics and risk management are changing the techniques of border control and security. Amoore has been awarded a Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship (2016-18) for work on her upcoming monography, 'Ethics of Algorithm'. Her previous book projects include 'Algorithmic Life: Calculative Devices in the Age of Big Data' (2015) and 'The Politics of Possibility: Risk and Security Beyond Probability' (2013).*

# KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Friday, 18 November**
**18:00-19:00**
**Normative Orders EG.01**

## CONTRA-INTERNET

**DR. ZACH BLAS**

Despite the recent proliferation of critical surveillance studies, which aims to explicate the endless tools and techniques of today's surveillance infrastructures, few scholars take seriously—let alone make their focus—practices and imaginaries of counter—surveillance, often relegating them as mere anecdotes, spoofs, or bloopers. Yet, in the aftermath of so much critiquing and diagnosing of the contemporary surveillance landscape, counter-surveillance practices are exactly what is needed to actualize the intellectual and political frustrations at the core of critical surveillance studies, even if such practices are difficult and challenging to implement, create, and sustain. Notably, it is artistic practice that has been at the forefront of such counter surveillance activities and imaginaries.

With this in mind, my talk will introduce a body of artwork I am currently developing, titled "Contra-Internet." Contra-Internet broadly addresses the emerging militancies and subversions of the internet as a site of global surveillance and control. Amid rampant dataveillance and social media monoculture, "the internet" has become something that is extremely difficult to articulate an outside or alternative to. Conversely, Contra-Internet gives a theoretical consistency to the practical and imaginative work being done to create network alternatives to the internet.

*Zach Blas is an artist and writer whose practice engages technics and minoritarian politics. Currently, he is a Lecturer at the Department of Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths, University of London. Blas has exhibited and lectured internationally. His recent works respond to technological control, biometric governmentality, and network hegemony. He earned a Ph.D. in Literature at Duke University and his Master degree in Design Media Arts at University of California, Los Angeles.*

# ARTISTIC INTERVENTIONS
# AND WORKSHOPS

## *I-COULD-HAVE-WRITTEN-THAT*
**Friday, 18.11.2016**
**Normative Orders 5.01, 14:00-15:30**
**Manetta Berends**

This workshop is an examination of the reading power of text mining software. It challenges the image of text mining as a modern algorithmic oracle. The participants walk through the steps of a text mining process to make their own personal oracles. By departing from a customary binary opposition, the group dismantles how large sets of written documents are transformed into useful/meaningful/truthful information. The collected training data is used to write between the lines and activate their key-value combinations. The workshop aims to closely engage with a text mining process and a text mining software package. This is an attempt to get an understanding of the computational attitudes that lie behind such buzzy terms that cause disorder.
(Note: the workshop is limited to 30 people)

## BLACKLISTS
**Normative Orders 5.02, permanent art installation**
**Nicolas Maigret and Maria Roszkowska**

Blacklists is a project inspired by the "forbidden libraries" also known as Inferno (Index Librorum Prohibitorum). It is a directory of the forbidden Internet: a collection of websites and banned keywords for the detection and automatic filtering of illegal or threatening Internet contents. Just as the practice of the Inferno in libraries, Blacklists draws attention to the sidelining of content that could be "dangerous for the survival of the system". This collection reveals a cultural, social and ideological model of our society through what we should not see. These site collections are deployed here as a magic circle, a form of pagan ritual protection, isolating the subject from evil external influences. Blacklists reveals the impact of parental filters, ISP filters, states blacklists, Deep Web contents and other unwanted or filtered contents on the Internet.

## CHOOSE HOW YOU FEEL; YOU HAVE SEVEN OPTIONS
**Saturday, 19.11.2016**
**Normative Orders EG.01, 10:00–10:45**
**Ruben van de Ven**

Tech companies claim that this software gives an objective view into consumers' feelings. In my talk, I interrogate the language that is used to translate feelings into seemingly objective & delineated labels. The original video work consists of three video projections in an infinite loop. The small, life-size projection of a face is based on conversations in which I asked people to describe a situation in which they had to express an emotion that was not consistent with how they felt at the time. Subsequently, the large projection shows the steps involved in the algorithmic processing of the face: visualizing the reductions that take place to translate facial expressions into data points that are usable for a computer. It is an invitation to open up the box of expression analysis to reveal the assumptions that underlie this technology.

## A WEBPAGE IN THREE ACTS
**Saturday, 19.11.2016**
**Normative Orders EG.01, 13:00–14:30**
**Joana Chicau**

This is an assemblage of graphic experiments into a new hybrid form of composition, combining principles of choreography within the formal structures of coding. While the computer interprets the code, the readers/audience will be interpreting and start wondering about the relationship between the "choreographic vocabulary" in the code and its immediate outcome. The page, originally filled with information, will be deconstructed, with elements being moved and removed, ending with a minimal layout.

## REMNANTS AND REVENANTS
**Normative Orders 5.02, permanent exhibition of prints**
**Gian Luigi Scarpa**

# CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

## THE CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE "THE FORMATION OF NORMATIVE ORDERS"

The Frankfurt Cluster of Excellence "The Formation of Normative Orders" researches societal transformations from the perspective of the emergence and validity of normative orders. These are understood as historically grounded "orders of justification" that determine the establishment and stabilization of rule and the distribution of opportunities. The research cluster further probes into the norms upon which such orders rest, how they emerge and change, and how they are and can be criticized or legitimized. Researchers from a wide variety of disciplines, such as philosophy, history, political science and legal studies, as well as anthropology, economics, theology and sociology cooperate within this research consortium. The Cluster also hosts an International Graduate Program. For more information, please visit: www.normativeorders.net

## INTERNET TBD – TO BE DISCUSSED/DEFINED/ DELETED

Internet TBD is an open theoretical collective of young artists and academics. It addresses socio-critical and philosophical questions related to the Internet from an artistic point of view. Together we organise open discussion rounds, lectures, workshops and symposia to create experimental and intimate spaces for critical thinking. The aim of this project is to build bridges between theory and practice, combining these two essential elements of education in order to transgress traditional systems. Internet TBD also works as a library: in response to the overwhelming mass of information on the internet, we have built an online archive of essays and articles that map current processes, movements, and alterations. www.internet-tbd.com

## ORGANIZING TEAM

*This conference was organized by young academics, researchers and artists from the Cluster of Excellence "The Formation of Normative Orders", the Goethe University Frankfurt, the University for Art and Design (HfG) in Offenbach and the Internet TBD collective.*

Emma Bieck, Dominik Brodowski, Désirée Dietrich, Leonie Döpper, Philipp Hindahl, Ben Kamis, Matthias C. Kettemann, Johannes Klassen, Annkathrin Kluss, Julia Liebermann, Arootin Mirzakhani, Sarah Mohr, Alla Poppersoni, Manuel Rossner, Martin Schmetz, Till Straube, Jerzy Sobotta, Thorsten Thiel, Moritz Urban.

The organizing team would like to thank all discussants and colleagues at the Cluster and its partner institutions who made this conference possible through their continuing support.

## CONFERENCE VENUE

Goethe University Frankfurt – Campus Westend
Normative Orders Building
Max-Horkheimer-Str. 2
60323 Frankfurt/Main

# HOW TO GET THERE
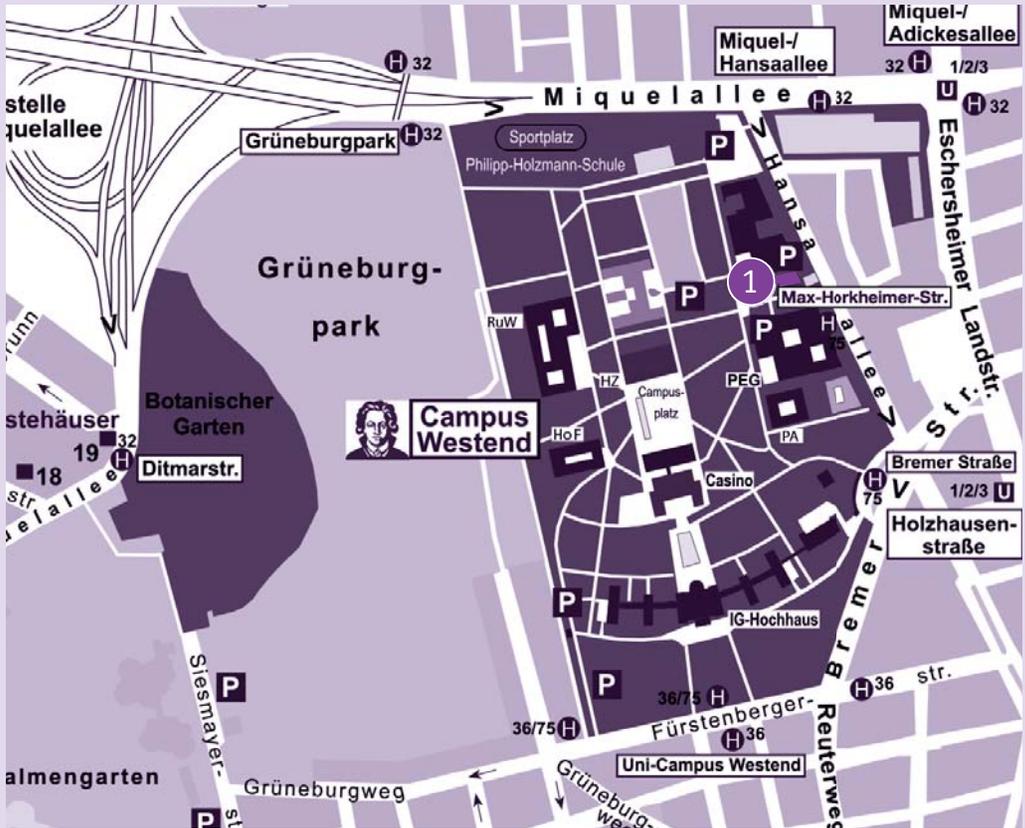


## BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Arriving at Frankfurt Airport, take the S-Bahn lines 8 or 9 and get off at Frankfurt Hauptbahnhof (central station). From Hauptbahnhof take the S-Bahn lines 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 8 / 9 to "Hauptwache", change to U-Bahn (Metro) lines 1 / 2 / 3 / 8 to "Holzhausenstraße", walk 10 minutes. Or take U-Bahn (Metro) line 4 to "Bockenheimer Warte" and continue with Bus line 36 (direction Hainer Weg) or 75 to University Campus Westend.

## ON CAMPUS

The conference will take place at the "Normative Orders" building on Max-Horkheimer-Str. 2 in the North-East corner of the campus (1).

## BY CAR

At highway junction "Nordwestkreuz Frankfurt" (A5/A66) exit onto A66, direction Stadtmitte/ Miquelallee. The freeway ends at the city border and transitions onto Miquelallee. Turn right at the first traffic light onto Hansaallee.

# THE CLUSTER

The Frankfurt Cluster of Excellence "The Formation of Normative Orders" explores the development of normative orders with a focus on contemporary conflicts concerning the establishment of a "new world order". The network is funded by the national "Excellence Initiative" and combines a series of research initiatives in Frankfurt and the surrounding area. The Cluster is based at Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main.

## THE RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Normative orders play a decisive role in conflicts over a just and fair economic order and the realisation of peace, human rights and democracy. These orders serve to justify a system of political rule and a specific distribution of goods and life chances. The Cluster investigates how such orders are handed down, modified, institutionalised and practised over long periods of time. In the second funding phase, researchers from the fields of philosophy, history, political science, legal studies, anthropology, economics, theology and sociology will focus greater attention on the question of how justifications assert themselves in the reality of social power relationships. The Cluster is divided into three research areas:

## I THE NORMATIVITY OF NORMATIVE ORDERS:
### Origins, Vanishing Points, Performativity
With the onset of modernity, the formation of normative orders itself becomes normative – that is, it becomes reflexive and produces critical standards and procedures for examining normative orders. As a result, normative orders become exposed to persistent revision which compels them to change from within. At the same time, normative orders, viewed from a dialectical perspective, produce one-sided justifications or justifications that immunise themselves against criticism and likewise generate discursive power. This is the core idea of the first research area which examines the 'Normativity of Normative Orders' with regard to its reflexivity, the genesis of normativity and how it is constituted through narratives, art and the media.

## II THE DYNAMICS OF NORMATIVE ORDERS:
### Rupture, Change, Continuity
The projects of the second research area deal with the transformation of normative orders, whether it be long-term change or change brought about by conflicts between competing orders. On the one hand, the goal here is to develop possible models of transformation; on the other hand, the focus is on the consolidation of normative orders following periods of crisis and radical change. On the programme are case studies on postrevolutionary situations in antiquity up to the transformations currently taking place in North Africa. A further focus is on historical and contemporary constellations in which revitalised religious and nonreligious discourses engage in negotiation over normative orders. A special point of interest is the broad spectrum of Islamic movements.

## III THE PLURALITY OF NORMATIVE ORDERS:
### Competition, Overlapping, Connection
A variety of competing patterns of order exists at the supranational level. A possible global security order is also an inherently plural construct whose realisation is being pursued by a variety of means. Companies and international organisations are involved in this endeavour in addition to states. The aim of the third research area is to engage in empirical research and normative reflection on new types of legitimation of transnational orders. This also involves the recognition that different types of legitimation and legitimacy of supranational orders compete with each other. Thus a political order is often legitimised by recourse to democratic participation, though also with reference to public interests or social development.

## PEOPLE

**Directors of the Cluster:**
Prof. Dr. Rainer Forst
(Chair in Political Theory and Philosophy)

Prof. Dr. Klaus Günther
(Chair in Legal Theory, Criminal Law and Law of
Criminal Procedure)

**Managing Director:**
Rebecca Caroline Schmidt

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**Partners**
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› Peace Research Institute, Frankfurt/Main
› Max Planck Institute for European Legal History,
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› Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public
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› Institute for Social Research, Frankfurt/Main
› Frobenius Institute, Frankfurt/Main
› Point Sud, Centre for Research on
  Local Knowledge, Bamako, Mali

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› Prof. Dr. Christopher Daase
› Prof. Dr. Nicole Deitelhoff
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