

**PHYSICAL COLLOQUIUM**  
**INVITATION**

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Monday, 23.11.2020, 4.15 p.m.,

speaks

**Prof. Dr. Walter Pfeiffer,**  
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about

**“The Complexity Trap - Skepticism, Denialism and the role of Non-Expert Scientists in the Climate Debate”**

It started with meeting a long-term colleague who surprisingly took a climate denialist position and who argued with, on the first glimpse, sound scientific evidence for his case. Feeling that something might be wrong this got me wondering and I started researching the scientific case of climate change in a bit more detail. It turned out as a rather mixed experience. Climate science is an immensely broad, interdisciplinary, complex, and politically loaded field. It is not a simple task to find your way through it being not an expert. Discriminating between science, fake science, and bad science in such a complex matter is challenging, and the skepticism that works well for me in nanophotonics failed big many times. Still a lot of non-expert scientists - quite a few of them either skeptics or denialists - participate in the public discussion. The presentation summarizes my experiences, puts them in the larger context of denialism to identify mechanism and draws conclusions for a responsible role of scientists in a public debate.

Disclaimer: This talk is not about climate science or climate change, the reported issues are much broader and climate science acts merely as an example.

All interested persons are cordially invited.

Sgd. Prof. Dr. Matthias Wollenhaupt