

WZB

Berlin Social Science Center



‘March for Science’ as the Way Forward?

Fred Felix Zaumseil

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Time for Activism!



The WZB Berlin Social Science Center



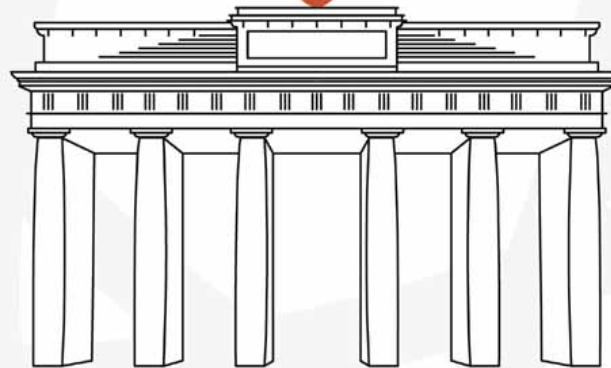


MARCH FOR SCIENCE

— EARTH DAY —

22. April 2017, 13:00

Start: Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin,
Unter den Linden 6



#sciencemarchBER is for everyone, scientists and supporters, to show there is NO alternative to facts.



marchforscienceberlin.de

March for Science Berlin | CC-BY-ND

Women's March, Washington D.C.





Should we campaign for science and facts? If so, how?



Photo: Ted Eytan/Flickr

March for Science Berlin

“...aims to raise awareness of the significance of scientific findings and verifiable results for our society. Science and research are pillars of freedom and prosperity. We are non-partisan and trans-institutional. We want science to be understood as a common good that supports politics and society in reaching evidence-based decisions for the public benefit. (...) Scientific knowledge on interdependencies in nature and society is incorporated into school and vocational education, this ever-increasing knowledge contributes to the sustainable future of mankind. (...)

Science relies on the free exchange of ideas across international borders in order to tackle the big questions of our society.”



March for Science Berlin

- Neutrality?



March for Science Berlin

- Neutrality?
- Misuse?



March for Science Berlin

- Neutrality?
- Misuse?
- Elitism?



March for Science Berlin

- Low support at the beginning



March for Science Berlin

- Low support at the beginning
- Prosecuted researchers and threatened academic institutions

A Reality Check



March for Science Berlin



Marching for Science and Protecting CEU





- Standing up for scientific knowledge is not wrong, it is a good thing!



- Standing up for scientific knowledge is not wrong, it is a good thing!

But:

- March for Science did not strengthen the protection of academic freedom overall



- Standing up for scientific knowledge is not wrong, it is a good thing!

But:

- March for Science did not strengthen the protection of academic freedom overall
- Did nothing to address tension between expertise and democracy



A Way Forward

- Rule of experts? No!



A Way Forward

- Rule of experts? No!
- It's politics, stupid!



A Way Forward

- Take democratic action against “classic” violations of academic freedom



A Way Forward

- Take democratic action against “classic” violations of academic freedom
- “New academic activism”



Thank you!



Photo: Fred Zaumseil

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