

ISWI 2017 Organising Committee

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International Student Week in Ilmenau 2017

Workshop Information Form

Brief description about your organisation and its work

The NaturwissenschaftlerInnen-Initiative Verantwortung für Frieden und Zukunftsfähigkeit (NatWiss) was founded in the 1980s in the wake of the NATO Double-Track Decision. Scientists stood up against the armament and threat of a nuclear war. As a part of the peace movement NatWiss uses its specific expertise for a world without war and violence, for the control and abolition of nuclear, chemical, biological and conventional weapons systems, for peace and disarmament research and for social, ecologic and humane use and development of technologies. NatWiss acts according to Ernst Bloch's quote: "We are not only responsible for our actions but also for actions we accept without question".

Title and topic of the workshop

Military research at universities

Military research is being conducted in every major industrialized country. In some countries, military funded R+D takes up the majority of funding for certain scientific fields. Responsible science should be prioritizing on finding solutions to challenges of human kind: justice, poverty, climate change, health, etc. Military research freezes limited resources to work on these fields and is an obstacle to a peaceful and just society.

The workshop aims at educating on the responsibility of science and at discussing military research at universities. The event will give arguments against military research and demystify arguments of its proponents, highlight different military research projects, give insights in how to detect military research and will inform on alternatives (i.e. civil clauses) and actions for shifting the focus of science.

Information about the facilitator(s)

Reiner Braun: Board Member of NatWiss, co-President of the International Peace Bureau, historian and journalist

Dietrich Schulze: Council Member of NatWiss, former employee representative of Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe

Lucas Wirl: Executive Director of NatWiss

Target group

Students and university staff, people interested in peace, disarmament, conversion, and the role of science, people interested in the discourse of the responsibility of science and scientists

Duration of the workshop

90 minutes to 120 minutes

Number of participants that can take part in the workshop

20-30

Expected outcome of the workshop

The workshop aims at educating on the responsibility of science and at discussing military research at universities. The event will give arguments against military research and demystify arguments of its proponents, highlight different military research projects, give insights in how to detect military research and will inform on alternatives (i.e. civil clauses) and actions for shifting the focus of science.

Methodology to be used

Would you need any specific equipment? no

Preference for indoor or outdoor location? Outdoors if the weather is nice.

Miscellaneous information you'd like us to know