

Vortragsankündigung

- im Rahmen des UniCat-Kolloquiums -
(www.unicat.tu-berlin.de)

Es spricht: **Prof. Dr. Petra Lucht**, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science; TU Berlin

Zeit: **Dienstag, 30. Juni 2009 17:15 Uhr**

Ort: **TU Berlin, Institut für Chemie,
Straße des 17. Juni 115, 10623 Berlin
Raum C 230**

Thema: **Invitation to 'A room with a view' on Unifying Concepts in Catalysis: Reflections on how to bridge scientific, societal and gender issues.**

Abstract:

The title of my talk – Invitation to 'A room with a view' - was inspired by the homepage of *UniCat*. Here, the **vision** of *UniCat* is symbolized by an image of an open door through which the blue sky and some clouds are visible. This image will serve as a starting point for my talk in order to address sociological perspectives on the implications and possible extensions of research on catalysis. The explored perspectives in the talk include the following ones:

- (1) Catalytic processes are not 'visible' per se. They have to be researched well in order to understand how chemical reactions take place. In that respect the Cluster of Excellence *UniCat* symbolizes a particular 'room with a view' within the building of science and technology: Through unifying different research areas on catalysis within the Cluster of Excellence, the concept of catalysis will get more attention: Catalysis research will become more visible to the scientific community, to politics and to the public.
- (2) During the last 40 years the field of 'sociology of science and technology' has also gained the status of getting rooms within buildings of academia. The field looks on science through sociological, historical and philosophical eye glasses. I will give a short overview of possible perspectives that might raise further questions in regard to research in catalysis. Such questions might be: To what consequences does it lead that *UniCat* has been conceptualized as an 'interdisciplinary' research cluster? How is 'nature' being conceptualized in *UniCat* and what implications does this have for the pursued research trajectories? To what end will different 'leitmotifs' of catalysis research – ranging from fundamental to applied research – lead?
- (3) During the last 10 years a third umbrella of controversial perspectives on science and technology has gained momentum: How to address and how to integrate gender aspects into the visions and into the practice of science and technology research? This question is raised often and – again - different answers might be given to it. In my talk, I will reflect on the invitation given to women to enter the rooms of science and technology and become members of the scientific community. This reflection will include an overview of the different perspectives that have been developed in the research area of gender studies on science and technology during the last 40 years.

The talk will conclude with an invitation to discuss the invitation portrayed on the homepage of *UniCat* to enter the 'room with a view' on catalysis research – considering the portrayed sociological perspectives.

Organisator: Prof. Dr. Peter Hildebrandt (TUB)
Gäste sind herzlich willkommen!

Prof. Dr. Matthias Driß Sprecher des Exzellenz-Clusters UniCat