

Dr. Christian Rauch

Christian Rauch's work connects academic research and innovation with cultural practice and public engagement. For more than a decade, he has explored new ways for people to engage with science, ideas and possible futures. Since 2024, he has been Festival Director of Berlin Science Week, where he leads the strategic and programmatic development of the festival and its international network of scientific and cultural partners.

Christian studied physics at TU Berlin and in Sydney and received his PhD in Engineering Physics from Aalto University in Helsinki. As a Marie Curie Fellow, his research focused on semiconductor physics and materials science. After completing his PhD, he moved from academic research into knowledge and technology transfer at the Paul Drude Institute for Solid State Electronics, an institute of the Leibniz Association, exploring how scientific research could connect with innovation and wider society.

In 2014, he founded STATE and initiated one of Berlin's first festivals dedicated to bringing science, art and society together. Two years later, the festival became part of the newly established Berlin Science Week, which he would return to lead a decade later. Over the following years, Christian developed and directed experimental artsience programs in Germany and internationally, from an art-and-AI program in Los Angeles to a collaboration with the United Nations' AI for Good Summit at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. In Berlin, he co-founded STATE Studio with Wissenschaft im Dialog as an exhibition and experimentation space bringing artists and scientists together. Through STATE, he developed transdisciplinary festivals, exhibitions, residencies and collaborative programs with partners including the United Nations, European Commission and Fraunhofer.

Over time, this work increasingly turned towards the role of imagination in shaping possible futures. Christian developed Futures Canvas, a digital platform for participatory futures exploration, and AKAW, a card-based tool for collective imagination and dialogue.

This interest also informs his work in executive education: since 2016, he has been a faculty member at CEDEP – the European Centre for Executive Development in Fontainebleau, where he teaches interdisciplinary creativity, creative imagination and futures thinking. He is a Fellow of the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt's Responsible Leaders Network and has contributed to juries and advisory boards across science, technology, culture and innovation.

Major career steps

Since 2024	Festival Director, Berlin Science Week, Falling Walls Foundation, Berlin
2014–2024	Founder and Managing Director, STATE Experience Science GmbH, Berlin
Since 2016	Faculty Member, CEDEP – European Centre for Executive Development, Fontainebleau
2012–2016	Technology Transfer Manager, Paul Drude Institute for Solid State Electronics, Berlin
2008–2012	Research Scientist and Marie Curie Fellow, Aalto University, Helsinki

Education

2008–2012	PhD in Engineering Physics, Aalto University, Helsinki Summa cum laude
2002–2008	Diploma in Physics, Technische Universität Berlin