



Long Night of Science 2023, RWTH Aachen University

On November 10, 2023, the "Long Night of Science" of RWTH Aachen University took place for the 19th time in the university's large C.A.R.L. lecture hall center. The ITA, Institute of Textile Technology and Textile Research, was once again represented with two of its projects: BIOTEX-FUTURE and WIRKsam, Competence Center for AI in the World of Work.

Between 7 p.m. and midnight, a wide audience of all ages was able to gain an insight into the exciting world of (natural) science. All scientific disciplines were represented at the event. In various interactive projects, scientists and visitors engaged in lively discussions about the different projects, which this year focused on the topics of energy, artificial intelligence (AI) and mathematics.

After the welcome by Rector and Professor Ulrich Rüdiger, the stands of the WIRKsam and BIOTEX-FUTURE competence centers were a hive of activity. While WIRKsam fascinated visitors with the presentation of its AI robot, BIOTEXFUTURE was able to answer exciting questions about textiles and textile consumption. Especially when it came to questions about textile recycling, the participants' estimates deviated by an average of 10-20% from the actual 1%, causing astonished faces and further intensive discussions. Afterwards, there was the opportunity to discuss bio-based textile alternatives with members of the BIOTEXFUTURE team, such as the sports shoe demonstrator of the ALGAETEX

research project, which offered first insights into algae as a new potential bio-based raw material. The TransitionLab of BIOTEXFUTURE also presented the Mobile Upcycling Lab Experience (MULE), a new experimental method to address different target groups in the city of Aachen by providing a mobile environment for demonstrations, information, games and tools to improve material literacy in relation to textiles and to accompany events such as school projects, clothing exchanges, sustainability weeks or street festivals. The feedback, especially from schoolchildren, was very exciting and will lead to new collaborations.

In addition to the 60 projects, the program of the Long Night of Science also included 30 interesting lectures from a wide range of disciplines. For example, Dr. Andrea Altepost and Professor Thomas Gries from the Institute of Textile Technology (ITA) gave an exciting presentation on the topic of "Work, AI & sustainability using the example of the WIRKsam competence center".

This year's Long Night of Science at RWTH Aachen University was once again an exciting and informative event for all exhibitors and visitors. Science to understand, touch and discuss with citizens of all ages - we are all looking forward to next year's edition!

BIOTEXFUTURE - TransitionLab

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Photo „Lange Nacht der Wissenschaft, RWTH Aachen 2023 “: Peter Winandy