

TEDxUniHeidelberg

x = independently organized TED event

It is our pleasure to reach out to you with this second newsletter and communicate some of the thrilling developments and sneak peaks on our planned event in July!

Speakers

Being very inherent to life, absurdity confronts us on every corner. Everyday life is full of absurd moments, coincidences and unexpected turns and this all leaves a mark on our behavior. That said, achievement and performance driven modern educational and economic structures often push us to neglect and lay aside life's absurdity, so that we can move steadily and unidirectional towards the desired goals.

However, we advocate swimming with the tide of life's natural chaos as seeking perfect control of everyday life has its physical and psychological toll on our well-being. The speakers we chose for this event do exactly this – they all represent an idea worth spreading that is not part of mainstream thought.



Christoph Bangert

Our first introduced speaker, **Christoph Bangert**, has seen many things our worst nightmares could not even produce. As a war photographer, he has been to Afghanistan and Iraq in times of conflict and witnessed a range of emotions to an extent we cannot even imagine. While he has seen bitter suffering,

pain and sadness, he will have also seen the determination and willpower that can only come from deep inside a person and lead to inspiration and hope for others.

As he documents these conflicts and their consequences, Bangert also reflects upon the question why we are drawn to these pictures and if and why it is morally justified to work as a photographer in these regions. In his book "WAR PORN" he tries to go back to the raw roots of the moment in which these pictures were taken.

We are unbelievably excited to have him be part of our event and will encourage discussions between him and the audience!

Get more info @ www.christophbangert.com



Rebekka Reinhard

Dr. Rebekka Reinhard, the next speaker on our list, has a slightly different background – she is an applied philosopher. As she studied and received a doctorate in philosophy, she works against the stereotype of philosophers being old, wise men with long white beards. She takes philosophical theory and

applies it to everyday things that affect us – current events, politics, behavior and the empowerment of women in career and family life. Reinhard is determined to better lives with philosophy – also in the absurd way of coaching patients with depression. Under the motto "Philosophy is for everyone" we perceive her as an inspiration for our audience to get closer to philosophy and view everyday things in a different light!

Get more info @ www.rebkkareinhard.de



Aeham Ahmad

Aeham Ahmad certainly has shed things in a different light – he, however, uses the power of music. He has been a pianist from a young age that studied in his field at the Bath University in Homs, Syria. When the conflict in his home country started, he was without a passport and unable to flee. Therefore, he decided to play his piano in

the bombed streets of Damascus. He refused to accept the pain and this absurd conflict over freedom – and decided to work against it with works of musical art by Beethoven. His music gave hope and joy to the people who were otherwise scared, cut off from the rest of the world and felt forgotten by other countries. After ISIS burnt his piano ("his friend", as he says), since Western music is not allowed according to their belief, he fled to Germany. Here, his music has a different meaning – we hear the same things as people in a terrible conflict have heard. In an elegant and soft way, he tells us of the bombings, hunger and depression in Syria. Through music, once again, he can touch people and help us understand why it is so important to help refugees and fight against injustice. We invite you to listen to his [music](#) and open up to the meaning behind it or read a wonderful [article in the New York Times](#) about him and his story. Get more info @ www.aeham-ahmad.com

In the coming weeks, we will be announcing more and more speakers, revealing their ideas and tell you why we find them so inspiring! We are always happy to hear from you and your thoughts on the topics we are presenting.

Stay in touch with us: contact@tedxunihd.de

Tickets

So many of you have asked us when and how to get tickets and the date has finally arrived!

Ticket applications open today, May 1st!

What does the application look like?

1. **Apply on our website** and answer all the questions we ask (Yes, they are weird!)
2. Ticket **applications close May 19th**
3. We will black out all names (to stay as unbiased as possible) and **chose the 150 best applications**
4. After this – it is up to chance! We will pick **80 tickets from the lottery!**

We are so excited to receive and read all your applications!

One more note:

Due to organizational issues, it will unfortunately not be possible to apply for two or more tickets. We wish we could invite everyone to our event.

Oh, wait a minute – maybe this is possible? Parallel to our event we will host a **live-streaming event** in the Neue Uni, where you and your friends can listen to the talks live and take part in Q&As through Social Media! We are very excited that the Marsilius Kolleg and Studierendenrat made this possible as more people can take part in our event!

Inspirational corner: Larry Smith

To many of us career choices can be difficult, even baffling. Largely, this is due to our realization that major career options are often irreversible choices, yet we are required to make these choices while still lacking the necessary experience. Much of what could be said on this, can be summarized in the argument between deciding a career based on internal or external motivation. In this very challenging, energetic and humorous talk, Larry Smith passionately argues for the internal motivation and ambition as the most important aspect when deciding for one's career. A professor of economics at the University of Waterloo Canada, Larry Smith is a strong believer in youth leadership. Having mentored his students and helped them realize their potential and found their own start-ups, Larry Smith speaks from a position of passion and experience. We hope his talk would also motivate you to pursue the great careers you love and deserve.



On behalf of us and our team, we thank you for your interest in our event and are excited to hear about your thoughts on our topics!

*Yours sincerely,
Becky & Ali*