

## Oral presentation

**Academia or: How I learned to stop worrying and love the chalk****Joachim Breternitz<sup>1</sup>**

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Every academic career is different, just as different as every researcher is. After one year as professor at a German university of applied sciences, I will try to give a very personal witness report of my way to secure an academic position and reflect on some of the joys, but also of the difficulties I met in the last year.

As much as the individuals, university systems in the different European countries are diverse, and I will particularly highlight the role of universities of applied sciences in Germany. Founded as institutions mainly for teaching technical and engineering subjects to those who did an apprenticeship before, their role is constantly changing into offering a wide range of technical and nontechnical subjects from continued learning to PhD level. Being amidst this development, it is an exciting endeavour to establish crystallography as a core part into the existing chemical engineering and materials science programmes at FH Münster.

Finally, I would like to highlight on the importance of international exchanges and European experiences as a cornerstone in personal and scientific perspective. Again, from a very personal view, a Franco-German double degree and a PhD at Glasgow Uni (the same institution that turned Mr Who into Dr Who) converted me from a pure chemist into a crystallophilic researcher now trying to share this passion with the next generation of scientists and engineers. I hope that this talk will help young researchers to choose, whether the enriching but sometimes daunting choice of becoming an academic may be for them.