

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

DFG Imposes Sanctions Against Jan Hendrik Schön

Scientific misconduct leads to an eight year denial of the right to apply for funding, to act as a reviewer and to participate in DFG elections

In its meeting on 14 October 2004, the Joint Committee of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) acted on allegations of scientific misconduct against physicist Jan Hendrik Schön. Schön, who had once held a post at the University of Konstanz and had been engaged in research for Bell Laboratories, New Jersey, USA, was deprived of his active right to vote in DFG elections and serve on DFG committees for an eight-year period. During this time, Schön will not be able to serve as a peer reviewer. In addition, Schön will not be able to apply for DFG funding over the next eight years. The Joint Committee also issued a reprimand against Jan Hendrik Schön. This decision was communicated to Schön, to the vice chancellor of the University of Konstanz as well as to the Minister of Science of Baden-Württemberg.

By taking this course of action, the Joint Committee followed a recommendation of the Committee of Inquiry on Allegations of Scientific Misconduct, which, after thorough investigation, reached the conclusion that Jan Hendrik Schön had based two publications on fabricated and manipulated information. According to the Joint Committee, another aspect of Schön's scientific misconduct was the inappropriate storage and documentation of primary data. The sanctions imposed are in line with his severe breach of rules pertaining to good scientific practice.

From August 1998 to January 2000, Jan Hendrik Schön received a postdoctoral DFG fellowship. During the term of the fellowship and up until September 2002, Jan Hendrik Schön worked as a researcher for Bell Laboratories.

The DFG's investigation concentrated on the publications "Ambipolar Pentacene Field-Effect Transistors and Inverters", *Science* 287, 1022 (2000), J.H. Schön, S. Berg, Ch. Kloc and B. Batlogg, and "Electrical Properties of Single Crystals of Rigid Rodlike Conjugated Molecules", *Physical Review B* 58, 12952 (1998), J. H. Schön, Ch. Kloc, R. A. Laudise and B. Batlogg, which are specified in the final report.

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