



12  
December  
2:00 p.m.  
Campus Essen, Room  
S05 V02 E03  
and online

# Aurora Fellowship Public Lecture

Plant associated protists as parasites and symbionts of photosynthetic hosts interactions studies through a combination of ecology, biodiversity and molecular biology

*Prof. Sigrid Neuhauser (University of Innsbruck)*

In phytopathology, researchers study the interactions between viruses, bacteria, fungi, or oomycetes and their plant hosts, focusing on the intricate relationships between these microorganisms and plants. But there is a growing number of eukaryote microorganisms not belonging to fungi and oomycetes - often also referred to by the term protists - which form intricate biotic interactions with photosynthetic hosts including plants and macro and micro-algae, and which are abundant and impact environments in diverse ways. As our understanding of the diversity of these parasites is just beginning, we still do not well understand the ways in which they interact with their hosts. Using the example of phytomyxea, gaps in biodiversity will be highlighted. Phytomyxea have developed a unique way of interacting with their host, which makes them difficult to control using approaches designed for different microorganisms because of the way they feed on their host and the way they interact with their host.

The lecture venue is Room S05 V02 E03 at Campus Essen.

The lecture will also be streamed [online via ZOOM](#).

## What is the Aurora Fellowship?

The Aurora Fellowship is a two-week programme that we were able to establish with the support of the Förderverein der Universität Duisburg-Essen (the University of Duisburg-Essen's sponsorship association). The aim of this programme is to invite internationally renowned researchers working within the Aurora European Universities Alliance to UDE, allowing them to engage in intensive exchange with our University's researchers, doctoral candidates, postdocs and students. For UDE, it is particularly important to involve urban communities and the wider region, which is why the Aurora fellow is to give a public lecture for interested members of the public.

The thematic focus of the fellowship is centred on the four pilot domains that we are committed to as a university together with the Aurora Alliance:

- Sustainability and Climate Change
- Digital Society and Global Citizenship
- Health and Well-being
- Culture: Diversities & Identities



### The Aurora Fellow:

Dr. Sigrid Neuhauser is a professor and deputy director of the Institute of Microbiology at the University of Innsbruck. Her current research focuses on the understanding of Phytomyxean plant parasites and their interactions with and within the environment. Since 2020, Sigrid Neuhauser is a full professor via the Ingeborg Hochmair Professorship programme. She has received numerous fellowships and awards, including the FWF-START Price in 2014 and the Erwin Schrödinger Research Fellowship. Prof. Neuhauser has worked at the Natural History Museum London and as a researcher outside of academia for MYKON OG.