

EINLADUNG

Kolloquium
Wintersemester 2023 / 2024

Prof. Dr. Andreas Schäffer

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Institute for Environmental Research

hält am Dienstag, den **14.11.2023**, um 16:15 Uhr im Hörsaal 1, Biologikum, Campus Riedberg, Max-von-Laue-Str. 13, einen Vortrag über,
„The dialectics of zero pollution plans and expanding chemical productivity“

The UN Environment Assembly and Governing Council considers the worldwide pollution with chemicals and waste as a problem of global importance, as important as the interconnected planetary boundaries of climate change and biodiversity loss¹. Recently, scientists proposed to establish an intergovernmental panel on chemicals and waste (IPCW), with a mandate analogous to IPCC and IPBES². Such panel should improve the exchange between science and policy, facilitate the global management of chemicals and waste, ameliorate the environmental risk assessment, and speed up regulatory decisions.



The lecture will first focus on pesticides as a specific group of environmentally relevant chemicals. Most scientists agree that pesticides, deliberately introduced into the environment in large amounts^{3,4}, threaten organisms and communities on a regional, continental and global scale⁵. With a focus on pesticides I will point to gaps in their current environmental risk assessment: the discrepancy in fate and effect studies between single substance testing, i.e., the typical scenario when performing authorization studies, and pesticide mixtures, as they always occur in the agricultural practice^{6,7}, the disregard of further stress factors (multiple stress)⁸, and necessary developments in the persistence assessment of chemicals⁹. In a second part of the lecture, a more general view on chemicals and their ever-growing production capacity will be presented as well as the attempt and the current status of establishing a new intergovernmental chemicals council with its benefits.

Einladender: Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Henner Hollert