

**Abendvortrag** PV IX Mi 20:00 H 1  
**Max-von-Laue-Lecture: From the “Vergangenheit der Physik” to the “Future of Physics”: Monolingualism and the Transformation of a Science — ●MICHAEL D. GORDIN —**  
Princeton University

Among all the transformations that have shaped the physical sciences over the past century, one of the most dramatic but least recognized

has been the transition from a trilingual discipline (in English, French, and German), to the monolingual discipline of today. The dominance of English seems so inevitable to scientists working now that it is surprising to recognize that it attained this overwhelming status only in the 1970s, and that the process was quite contingent, even chaotic, as recently as midcentury. This talk will explore the origins of the current linguistic order in the sciences with an emphasis on the fate of the German language and the disciplines of physics and chemistry.