Harding Center for Risk Literacy



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General Information

The Harding Center was established in 2009 through a generous donation to Gerd Gigerenzer by David Harding, a London-based investment banker, and philanthropist. Gerd Gigerenzer is the former director of the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin and the author of numerous books, including "Gut Feelings: The Intelligence of the Unconscious" and "Calculated Risks: How to Know When Numbers Deceive You".

Our goal is to improve risk communication and risk literacy at the national and international levels in the health, law, and digital domain. To this end, an interdisciplinary team studies current risk communication develops methods to improve it, and trains physicians, medical staff, judges, and journalists in the art of clear and comprehensible communication.

Our methods have been incorporated into the specialised terminology of evidence-based medicine, entered the mathematics curricula at high schools, and were used as guidelines for probability-based statements in court. The results of our research were published in Annals of Internal Medicine, BMJ, JAMA Internal Medicine, Lancet, Nature Scientific Reports, Science, and Vaccine. For their research and efforts in science communication, members of the Harding Center received the Distinguished Educator Award from the Society for Risk Analysis, the Henry Walton Prize from the Association for the Study of Medical Education, and the Communicator Prize from the German Research Foundation (DFG).

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Key facts

- 6 researchers and 20+ associated members from 7 different countries
- Risk communication training provided to 5000+ medical professionals
- Frequent appearances on radio and television, media contributions and presentations
- Partnerships with health care providers and government institutions to develop fact boxes and easy to understand health information
- Collaborations with the Bank of England and Banca d'Italia to foster a save financial world

CENTRAL RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE & RESOURCES

- Located at Campus Griebnitzsee, University of Potsdam
- Since 2020 member of the Faculty of Health Sciences Brandenburg
- Partner of the Winton Centre for Risk and Evidence Communication at Cambridge University
- Member of the Health Literacy Network Germany (DNGK)

