

PRESS RELEASE



Math to Touch (Mathematik zum Anfassen)

Interactive exhibition opens at Goethe-Institut's New Downtown Location

May 23 – June 12, 2016

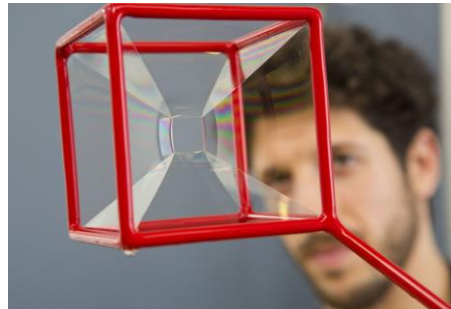
**Goethe-Institut Washington
1990 K St. NW Suite 03 (20th Street Entrance)
Washington, DC 20006**

www.goethe.de/MathToTouch
Download Dropbox images [here](#).

(Washington, DC, May 20, 2016) –The interactive exhibition *Math to Touch*, at the Goethe-Institut Washington May 23 – June 12, 2016, lets visitors of all ages and backgrounds use their hands and senses while trying out and thinking about a selection of mathematical experiments from the Mathematikum in Giessen, Germany in a fun and playful way.

What exactly is involved in this approach?

All the experiments bank on a playful approach to mathematics. They are thought provoking and puzzling, inspiring visitors to ask, “Why?” and then discover the answer themselves and in the process, learn about the importance of the phenomena. This approach can serve as an inspiration for how to convey abstract mathematical concepts in a manner that can be understood by the senses and then comprehended.



Visitors of all ages and all educational backgrounds experiment: They solve puzzles, build bridges, rack their brains while unraveling riddles, watch a sphere race, let wonderful soap bubbles come into being – and while doing so, they are always incidentally involved with mathematics.

The “Mathematikum” in the town of Giessen, Germany is the first interactive mathematics museum in the world. *Math to Touch* displays a selection of especially proven and established experiments from the exhibition in Giessen, where one is invited to try out and think over more than 160 experiments. Since it was opened ten years ago, around 1.5 million visitors have visited the Mathematikum.

Grand Opening: Tuesday, May 24, 6 – 8 pm

Opening remarks by Deputy Head of the Cultural Section of the German Embassy Jan Eckendorf and [Dr. Eric Friedlander](#) (Professor of Mathematics, University of Southern California). RSVP at www.goetheinstitutwashington.eventbrite.com

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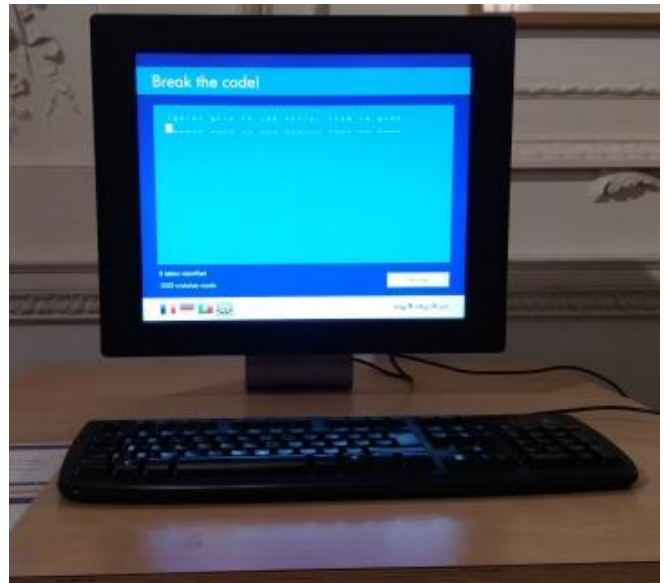
Sprache. Kultur. Deutschland.

Discussion (in German): How Secure are Text Messages?: Tuesday, May 24 12 – 1:15 pm

Dr. Hans Engler (Professor of Mathematics at Georgetown University) will talk about cryptology and developments in encryption technology ranging from Enigma machines in the early to mid-20th century to today's technologies, which are being used by ubiquitous apps such as the popular WhatsApp instant message service. More [here](#).

Exhibition hours: M-Th 10 am – 9 pm; F 10 am – 4 pm

Visits after 6 pm: please rsvp to languageprograms@washington.goethe.org



With material and signage in both German and English, the exhibition is designed for the general public and those learning German. Download teaching materials, schedule a school visit to the exhibition or view the schedule of the U.S. tour:

www.goethe.de/mathtotouch

About the Goethe-Institut:

Mutual understanding among nations by promoting international cultural dialogue: this is the ambitious mission of the Goethe-Institut. On behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany, cultural institutes around the world provide cultural programs, language courses, support to educators, and up-to-date information on Germany in the context of Europe.

Founded in 1990, Goethe-Institut Washington, DC is a center for German culture and language. From its location downtown, the Goethe-Institut Washington reaches out to both individuals and organizations in the community, bridging the past, present, and future with a variety of high-quality events.

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