

**KNOWLEDGE AND LANGUAGE**  
**IDF Lecture Series | Winter Semester 2007/2008**

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**Dr Philip Campbell**

**Editor-in-Chief,  
Nature and Nature Publications,  
London**

**nature**



# ***“Scientific knowledge: facts and frictions”***

**Abstract:** In the context of societal debates about the impact of science, how scientists convey relevant information is a critical issue. Two complicating factors are that (a) what scientists consider to be facts may be contested as such by others and (b) for some participants in the debate, “facts” are beside the point.

During the talk, examples of such complexities and possible ways of making progress will be discussed, acknowledging that the concept of “progress” is itself sometimes contested.

**Wednesday, 6 February 2008, 7.15 p.m.**  
**Kirchhoff Institute for Physics, large auditorium**  
**Im Neuenheimer Feld 227**