

# Creating Scientific Documentary Movies to Challenge Worldview Presuppositions

When watching TV or seeing documentaries in schools, the expressed worldview is usually agnostic naturalism. This dominance has been creating a social climate that naturalism is the default worldview, while theism is unscientific and old-fashioned. Hence, we decided to produce documentaries which are more explicit about worldview assumptions and show that scientific data can be interpreted within different worldview frameworks, thereby opening space for discussion. In this talk, we will discuss the vision, the process of production, and the outcomes of making scientific documentaries and how they could inspire your media projects.

**Alexander Fink** is Director of the Institute for Faith and Science (Institut für Glaube und Wissenschaft) in Marburg, Germany ([www.iguw.de](http://www.iguw.de)). He studied physics at the universities of Bayreuth and St. Andrews (UK) and received his PhD at the Institute for Biophysics at the University of Regensburg. After having worked as an industrial product manager, he became director of SMD graduates' ministry (Akademiker-SMD, the German branch of IFES) until 2014. His passion is the dialog of science, faith, and worldviews. Hence he founded the Kepler-Forum in Regensburg, coorganising the annual Regensburger Symposium ([www.regensburger-symposium.de](http://www.regensburger-symposium.de)) at the University of Regensburg. Since 2008 he has been a member of the ELF Steering Committee and has co-led the Scientists Network. Together with his wife, Alexander enjoys raising his two children. Contact: [alexander.fink@iguw.de](mailto:alexander.fink@iguw.de)

## I. The Need & Vision

- A. Reaching young people in secular schools
- B. Being present in the media
- C. Offering credible high-quality resources

## II. The process of production

- A. Preparatory phase
  - 1. Identify a relevant “hot” topic
  - 2. Do research on that topic
  - 3. Build a core group: expert, movie specialist, s.o. from target group
  - 4. Devise a concept: Which points do you want to bring across?
  - 5. Win sponsors and funds, determine the budget
  - 6. Be aware of the quality criteria: experts, differentiated content (no mission, but questions!)

## B. Production phase

1. Identify experts for interviews
2. Develop a list of interview questions
3. Arrange meetings with the experts and record interviews
4. Scan the interview recordings for good statements
5. Fit them into the concept
6. Provide additional picture material (databases)
7. Create draft version
8. Review and refine the draft version several times (target group!)
9. Create Final version

## C. Distribution phase

1. Kick-off-event for release, e.g. conference: celebrate
2. Create a website
3. Distribute: Send review copies to Christian and secular newspapers, magazines, TV stations, media centers of schools, organisations; participate in conferences
4. Selling strategy: hard copy, online (amazon, itunes...)
5. Produce voice-overs in other languages

## III. Outcomes

### A. Sales

1. Direct
2. Distributors

### B. TV screenings

1. National

2. International

- C. Media centers for public schools

1. Church centers

2. Public school centers

IV. Discussion

Compare:

DVDs in bookstore: “Our fascinating universe”, “More than my brain”

[www.fascinating-universe.org](http://www.fascinating-universe.org)

[www.iguw.de](http://www.iguw.de)