



My life as an editor

Nina Meinzer (they/them)
Senior Editor & Team Leader
Nature Physics

23 April 2024

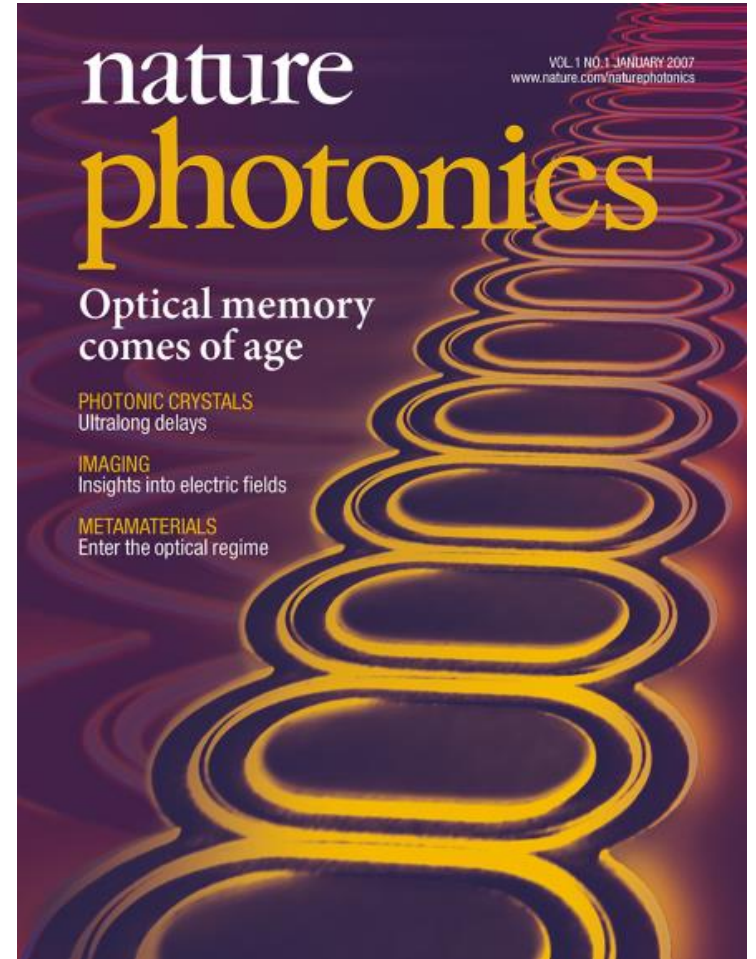
SPRINGER NATURE

How I came to be an editor

Diploma in physics (2002-2007)



- **Undergraduate physics**
electives in solid-state physics, semiconductors, nanotechnology, nanooptics, quantum optics, physical chemistry, geodesy / gravimetry
- **Diploma thesis (2006-2007)**
plasmonics, single-particle spectroscopy
- **January 2007**
Nature Photonics launched



PhD at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (2008-2011)



- Lots of (frustrating) time in the lab
was: metamaterial laser
became: a parameter study

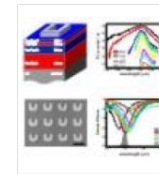


Karlsruhe School of Optics & Photonics

- KSOP collegiate

interdisciplinary graduate school
about everything light

Optics Express Vol. 18, Issue 23, pp. 24140-24151 (2010) • <https://doi.org/10.1364/OE.18.024140>



Arrays of Ag split-ring resonators coupled to InGaAs single-quantum-well gain

Nina Meinzer, Matthias Ruther, Stefan Linden, Costas M. Soukoulis, Galina Khitrova, Joshua Hendrickson, Joshua D. Oitzky, Hyatt M. Gibbs, and Martin Wegener

[Author Information](#) • [Find other works by these authors](#)

Optics Express Vol. 16, Issue 24, pp. 19785-19798 (2008) • <https://doi.org/10.1364/OE.16.019785>



Toy model for plasmonic metamaterial resonances coupled to two-level system gain

Martin Wegener, Juan Luis García-Pomar, Costas M. Soukoulis, Nina Meinzer, Matthias Ruther, and Stefan Linden

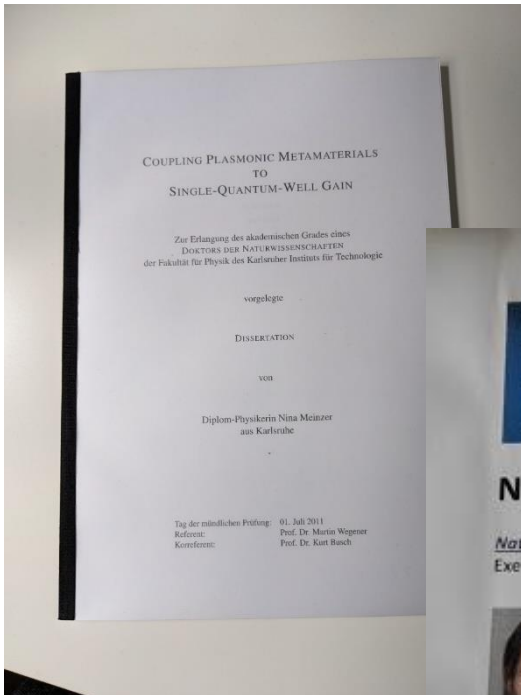
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RESEARCH ARTICLE | SEPTEMBER 13 2011

Distance-dependence of the coupling between split-ring resonators and single-quantum-well gain

N. Meinzer; M. König; M. Ruther; S. Linden; G. Khitrova; H. M. Gibbs; K. Busch; M. Wegener

PhD at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (2008-2011)



New Editor-in-Chief

Nature Photonics is proud to announce the appointment of [Nina Meinzer](#), University of Exeter, as the new Editor-in-Chief from January 2020.



Nina Meinzer has made significant contributions in the areas of metamaterials and plasmonics. She has been associated with the journal as an Editorial Board member for a number of years and we are delighted that she has agreed to take on the scientific leadership of the journal in its 13th year as her next career step on her way to world domination.

We also take the opportunity to thank Henry for approval upon acting as her representative.

Nature Publishing Group (NPG) is a publisher of high impact scientific and medical information in print and online. *Nature Photonics* is a peer-reviewed scientific journal published by the *NPG*. The journal covers research related to optoelectronics, laser science, imagine, communications, and other aspects of photonics and was established in January



Postdoc at University of Exeter (2011-2016)



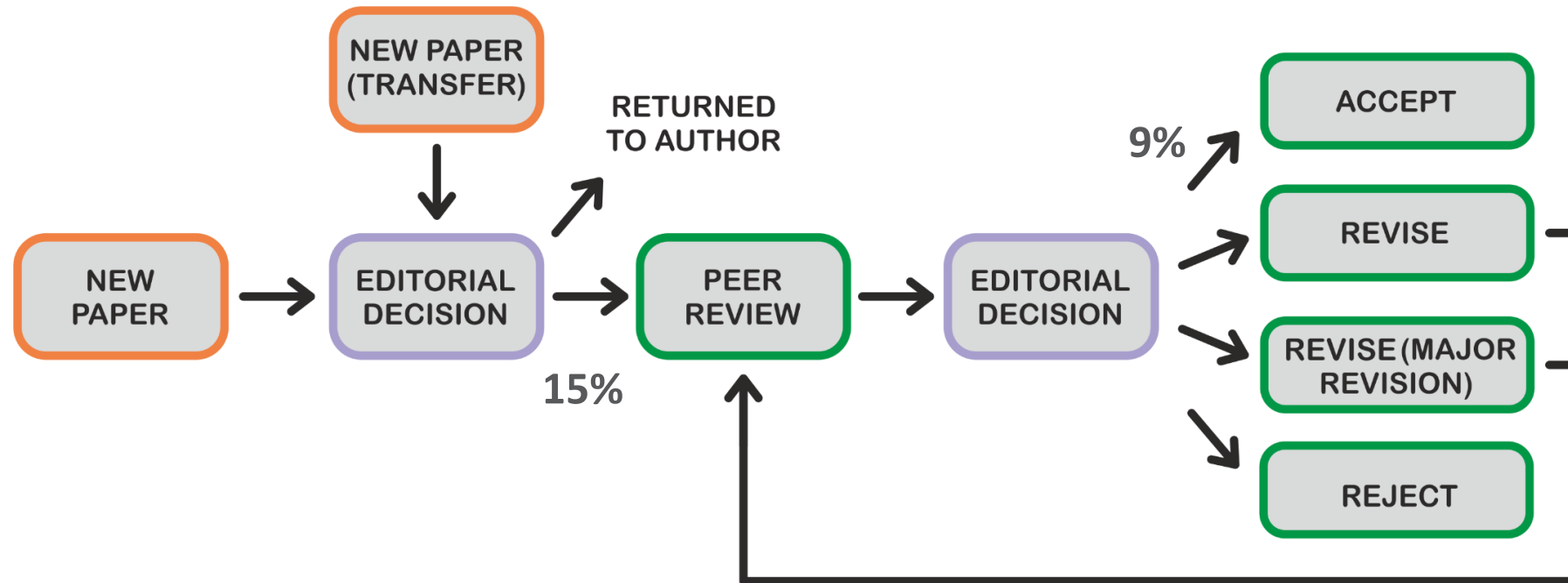
- **Plasmonics & gain**
I didn't feel finished with my PhD
- **QUEST – microwave metamaterials**
engineering focus wasn't for me
- **Reality hit – hard**
life-changing diagnosis focussed my mind
no more time to waste on wavering
looked at job ads – there were 2 for Nature

Editor at Springer Nature (since 2016)

- ***Nature Communications (2016 – 2019)***
nonlinear optics, lasers, optomechanics, topological photonics
mostly manuscripts, some travel
conference organisation etc.
2018: Senior Editor
- ***Nature Physics (since 2019)***
all (classical) optics & photonics
add: non-primary content & editing 🥰
responsibility for the journal's non-primary content
2022: Team Leader

What I do as an editor

My main job – papers

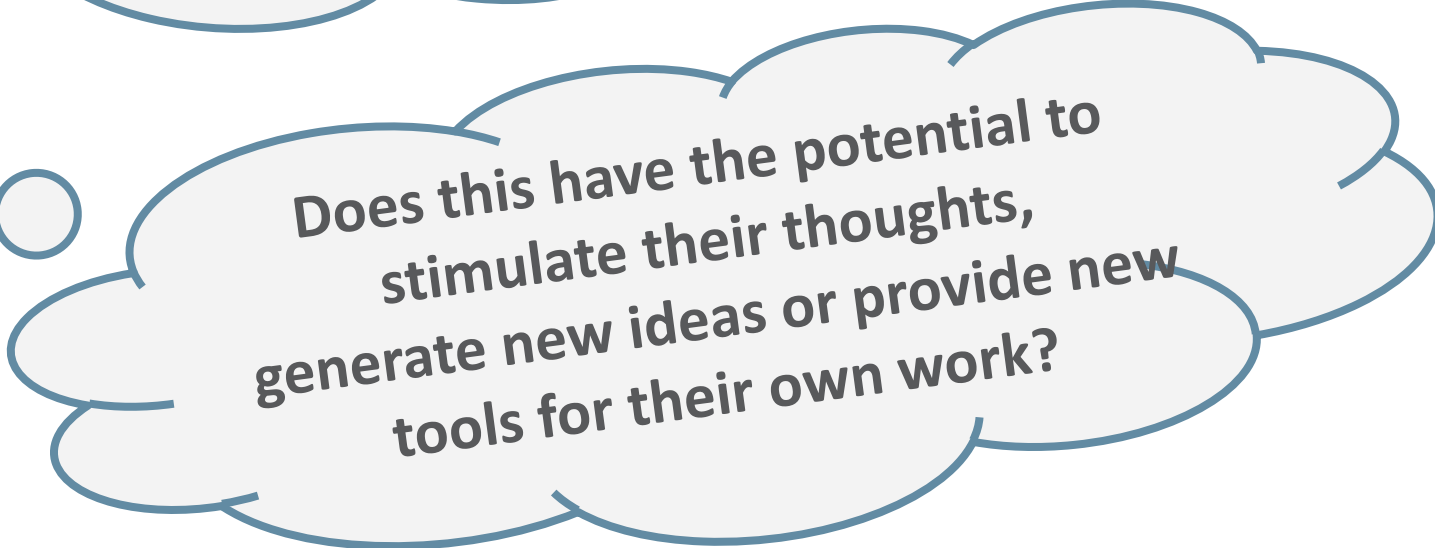


My main job – papers

When we read a paper (yes, we read all of them – in full) we ask:



Is this going to be worth my
readers' time?



Does this have the potential to
stimulate their thoughts,
generate new ideas or provide new
tools for their own work?

My other job – non-primary content

- **Non-primary – or Reviews, News & Opinion – content**
Reviews, Perspectives
News & Views, Picture Stories
Comments, World Views, Thesis
Editorials
Books & Arts, Measure for Measure
- **Team leader**
Ensure journal's pipeline (discuss and support)
Organise and run relevant meetings
Train new editors
Support my chief editor with strategy

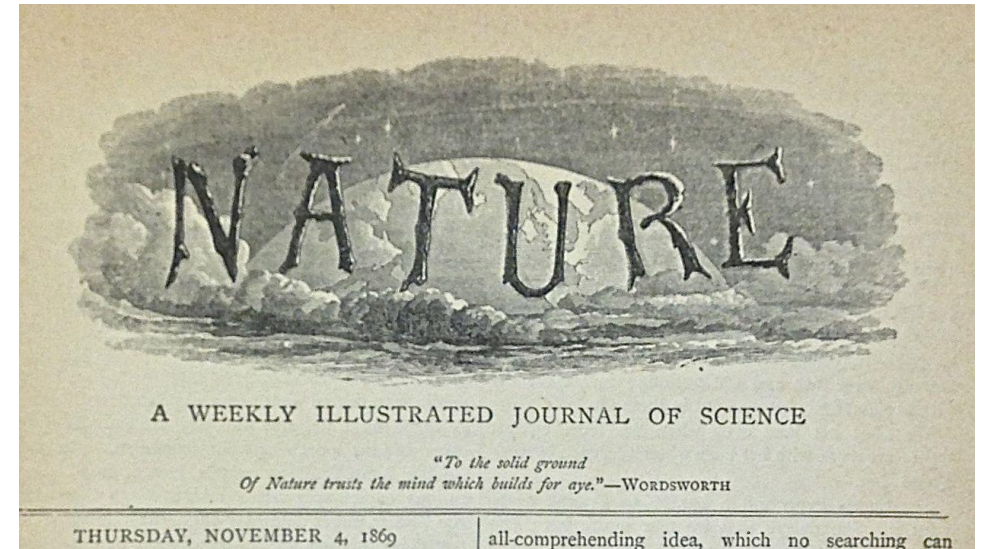
The fun part of the job – conferences etc.



Publishing is changing

Scientific publishing history

- 1665: *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*
- 1869: *Nature*
- 2024: nearly 30,000 scientific journals
- 1991: arXiv.org
- 2000: BioMed Central and PubMed Central



Open Access mandates - the big one

- OA is as old as the internet, mandates are more recent
- Driven by funders and librarians (Plan S)
- Mandate now for immediate OA; embargoes used to be okay
- Fewer researchers can publish in subscription journals
- Publishers have to react and offer OA options

AI - the next big one?

- Publishing is looking to find applications for generative AI (translation, summary, format checks etc.)
- For now, it's mostly a headache (copyright!)
- AI assist is coming for sure, but it won't replace editors just yet

Thank you.

nina.meinzer@nature.com

www.nature.com/nphys

 MeinzerNina

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