



Get to know the corrosion fighters

They have told us their story, how will yours be?



JONATHAN APELL

Winner of EFC Young Scientist Grant 2023

Could you give us a little presentation of yours?

Hello everyone :-) I am Jonathan, a researcher working at TU Chemnitz and pursuing my Ph.D. at University of Jena in Germany. Before my Ph.D., I studied Materials Science at the Universities of Göttingen and Jena.



What do your studies consist of?

I work on high-temperature corrosion, specifically looking at early stages of oxidation of metallic materials. I use electron microscopy to characterize the first forming oxide phases, for example on high-entropy alloys or stainless steel. In my studies, the goal is to understand how composition, microstructure, and oxidation conditions affect the oxidation behavior, aiming to develop materials that can withstand harsh conditions, e.g., in energy generation of the future.

What do you like the most about your activities?...

I very much enjoy the variety in my work – solving problems, asking new questions, and collaborating with interesting people.

How did you get here? How did you discover this world?

Attending EUROCORR conferences, I got to know people from all over Europe working in the field of corrosion.

If you didn't dedicate yourself to this field, what would you have liked to be?

As a kid, I wanted to become an astronaut – I guess that ship has sailed.

Have you ever had access to a scholarship? What requirements are most valued to access it?

I was fortunate enough to get scholarships during my Master's degree and during my Ph.D. Recently I was awarded the EFC Young Scientist Grant, allowing me to start a new international collaboration. The programs I applied to look for academic achievements, ambitious projects, and extracurricular activities.

Do you think your field of studies needs more visibility?

Absolutely, I think that many people don't realize how big the potential of corrosion research and protection is to save money and cut CO2 emissions.

In your opinion, what is the single most valuable attribute is researcher should have?

Curiosity (with persistence as a close second)

What advice would you give to students in an early stage of their careers?

Don't be afraid to ask lots of questions!

TO END... COULD YOU TELL US...

- **A color:** Green
- **A number:** 42
- **A song:** Where Is My Mind?
- **A hobby:** Hiking