



M. Westerhausen

The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th article** since 2000 in *Angewandte Chemie*: “An Efficient General Synthesis of Halide-Free Diarylcalcium”: J. Langer, S. Kriech, H. Görls, M. Westerhausen, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, *121*, 5851–5854; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 5741–5744.

Matthias Westerhausen

Date of birth:	January 15th, 1959
Position:	Chair of Inorganic Chemistry, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität (FSU), Jena (Germany)
Education:	1977–1983 Philipps University of Marburg (Germany) 1983–1987 PhD with Prof. G. Becker, University of Stuttgart and Marburg 1987–1988 Postdoc with Prof. R. T. Paine, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM (USA) 1989–1994 Habilitation, University of Stuttgart 1995–1996 Assistant Professor at the University of Stuttgart 1996–2004 C3 Professor at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU), Munich (Germany) 2004–Present Chair of Inorganic Chemistry, FSU 1998–2001 Dean of Studies at the Department of Chemistry, LMU 2001–2004 Vice President of the LMU
Awards:	1978 Hörlein Award of the Verband Deutscher Biologen e.V 1999 Teaching Excellence Award from the State of Bavaria, Germany
Current research interests:	Heavy Grignard reagents: synthesis of aryl and diaryl alkaline-earth metals and catalytic activity of alkaline-earth-metal compounds. Arenes and their anions as ligands of alkali and alkaline-earth metals (π -complexes). Metal-mediated oxidative C–C coupling reactions: deprotonation and oxidation of 2-pyridylmethylamines, synthesis of tetradentate ligands with a 1,2-di(2-pyridyl)-1,2-diamidoethane backbone in the coordination sphere of 3d metals, and catalytic activity of these metal complexes. Phosphanides of yttrium: investigation of the reactivity of isoelectronic $\text{Sc}^{3+}/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ and $\text{Y}^{3+}/\text{Sr}^{2+}$ compounds
Hobbies:	Traveling, hiking, reading, motorbiking, and photography

When I was eighteen I wanted to be ... an architect or a chemist—in both professions creativity is necessary in order to create new structures.

The most significant scientific advance of the last 100 years has been ... the understanding of chemical bonding and the development of quantum mechanics.

When I wake up I ... prepare a hot cup of coffee and enjoy it with my wife.

The biggest problem that scientists face is ... preservation of biodiversity and nature (which includes challenges such as climate change, drinking-water quality, and environmental sustainability).

My favorite piece of research is ... always the most recent scientific project—the option to choose the research project according to your interest is one of the major privileges of being a professor.

If I could have dinner with three famous scientists from history, they would be ... Justus Liebig, Johann Wolfgang Döbereiner, and Albert Einstein.

The three things I would take to a desert island would be ... my family, a filled refrigerator, and a notebook with a satellite connection.

My most exciting discovery to date has been ... my wife.

The secret of being a successful scientist is ... to leave old paths of thinking and to be self-critical.

My favorite author (fiction) is ... Michael Crichton (scientifically feasible settings embedded in exciting stories).

My 5 top papers:

1. “Recent Developments in the Field of Organic Heterobimetallic Compounds of the Alkaline-Earth Metals”: M. Westerhausen, *Dalton Trans.* **2006**, 4755–4768.
2. “Aryl Calcium Compounds: Syntheses, Structures, Physical Properties, and Chemical Behavior”: M. Westerhausen, M. Gärtner, R. Fischer, J. Langer, *Angew. Chem.* **2007**, *119*, 1994–2001; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, *46*, 1950–1956.
3. “Heavy Grignard Reagents: Challenges and Possibilities of Aryl Alkaline Earth Metal Compounds”: M. Westerhausen, M. Gärtner, R. Fischer, J. Langer, L. Yu, M. Reiher, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2007**, *13*, 6292–6306.
4. “Heavy Grignard Reagents—Synthesis and Reactivity of Organocalcium Compounds”: M. Westerhausen, *Coord. Chem. Rev.* **2008**, *252*, 1516–1531.
5. “Recent Developments in Organic Chemistry of Calcium—An Element with Unlimited Possibilities in Organometallic Chemistry?”: M. Westerhausen, *Z. Anorg. Allg. Chem.* **2009**, *635*, 13–32.

DOI: 10.1002/anie.200904772