

## STANFORD Vortragsreihe

Einladung zur 4. Veranstaltung im Rahmen der Stanford Vortragsreihe

**Thema**      **Mechanical Engineering in an Electronic World**  
**Prof. Chris Gerdes**  
**Center of Design Research**  
**Stanford University, Palo Alto, Kalifornien**

**Termin**     Montag, 13. März 2006

**Zeit**        16.00 – 17.30 Uhr

**Ort**         Grosser Hörsaal im Forschungsgebäude  
Eingang 111, Erdgeschoss

Wolfsburg, 06. März 2006  
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Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren,

Im Rahmen der Kooperation zwischen dem Center of Design Research der Stanford University und der Volkswagen AutoUni begrüßen wir Prof. Gerdes zu einer Vortragsveranstaltung im Rahmen der Stanford Vortragsreihe. Der Vortrag wird in englischer Sprache gehalten.

**Abstract:**

With ever-increasing choices of inexpensive sensors and microprocessors, there are few complex systems manufactured today that remain purely mechanical. The perfect example of this trend toward electrification is, of course, the transformation of the automobile from a mechanical device to today's mechatronic system. Given the increasing importance of electronics and computers, does this imply that mechanical engineering is becoming irrelevant? When even the American Society of Mechanical Engineers warns on the cover of their monthly magazine that "the mechanical world runs the risk of fading," can the future of mechanical engineering be bright?

Using several examples from automotive research at Stanford, this talk argues that mechanical engineering is in fact more important than ever. The advances in electronics remove traditional constraints, providing an opportunity to reinvent cars and take a fresh look at conventional wisdom. Mechanical engineering principles can lead the way in this reinvention if they are applied broadly enough to link different disciplines to mechanical engineering and to link different areas within mechanical engineering. With a strong understanding of fundamentals and the ability to collaborate in areas ranging from electronics to combustion to psychology, mechanical engineers can look forward to a future of increasingly novel engines, suspensions and driver assistance systems.

- Informationen zur Volkswagen AutoUni finden Sie unter: [www.autouni.de](http://www.autouni.de)