Stefan Fölsch is a senior scientist and research group leader at the Paul-Drude-Institut für Festkörperelektronik (PDI) in Berlin, Germany. Stefan studied physics at the University of Hannover and obtained his doctorate in solid-state physics in 1991. He then moved to Japan to work for the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation as a postdoctoral research fellow in the area of applied surface and materials science. After returning to Germany two years later, he became a research associate in the experimental physics department of FU Berlin, explored basic aspects of stepped surfaces using diffraction and scanning probe techniques, and finally obtained the academic qualification of habilitation. Joining the PDI in 2002, his objective was to set up a low-temperature STM research group which since then has specialized in the technique of atom manipulation and scanning tunneling spectroscopy on semiconductor surfaces. Current activities of the group include the investigation and control of quantum effects in artificial nanostructures on III-V semiconductors. Among various other collaborations, Stefan keeps strong ties with research laboratories in Japan, to where he returns occasionally as a visiting scientist.