

# Trimetallic nanoclusters for the production of green H<sub>2</sub> by WGS (water-gas shift)

Rareș Banu

Nicole Müller, Adea Loxha, Lorenz Lindenthal, Florian Schrenk, Noelia Barrabés

ClusCAT *Lab.*

Institute of Materials Chemistry

Technische Universität Wien, Vienna (Austria)

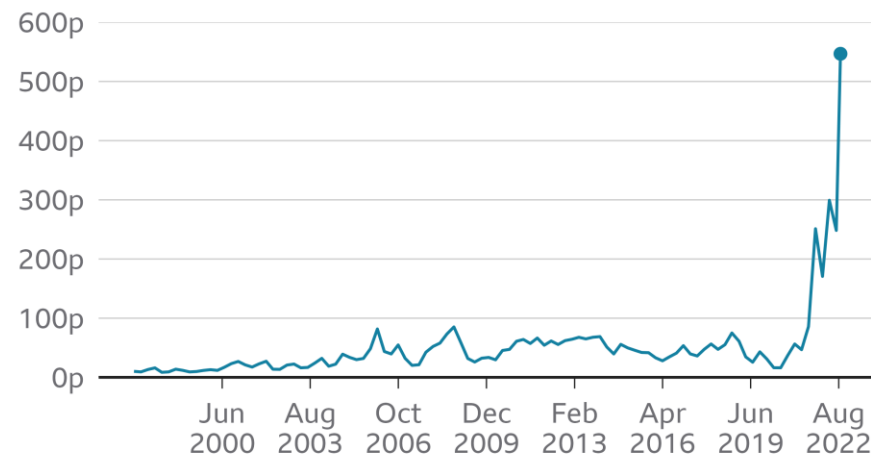


# Water-gas Shift Reaction



## Gas prices are still rising

Daily price of UK gas futures



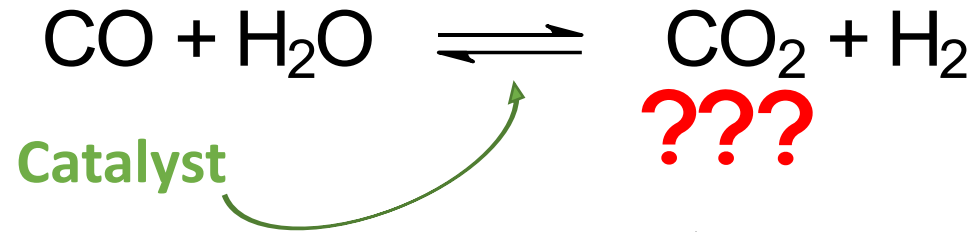
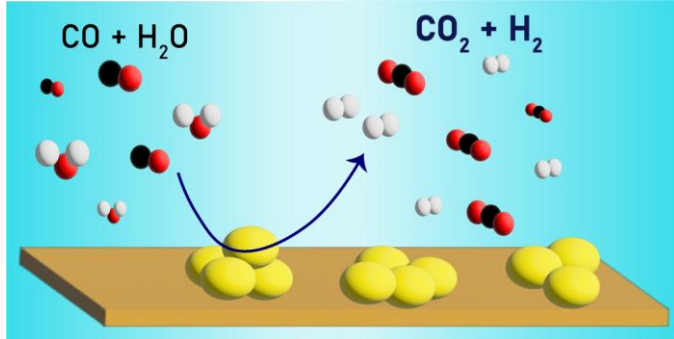
Source: Bloomberg

BBC





# Water-gas Shift Reaction



???

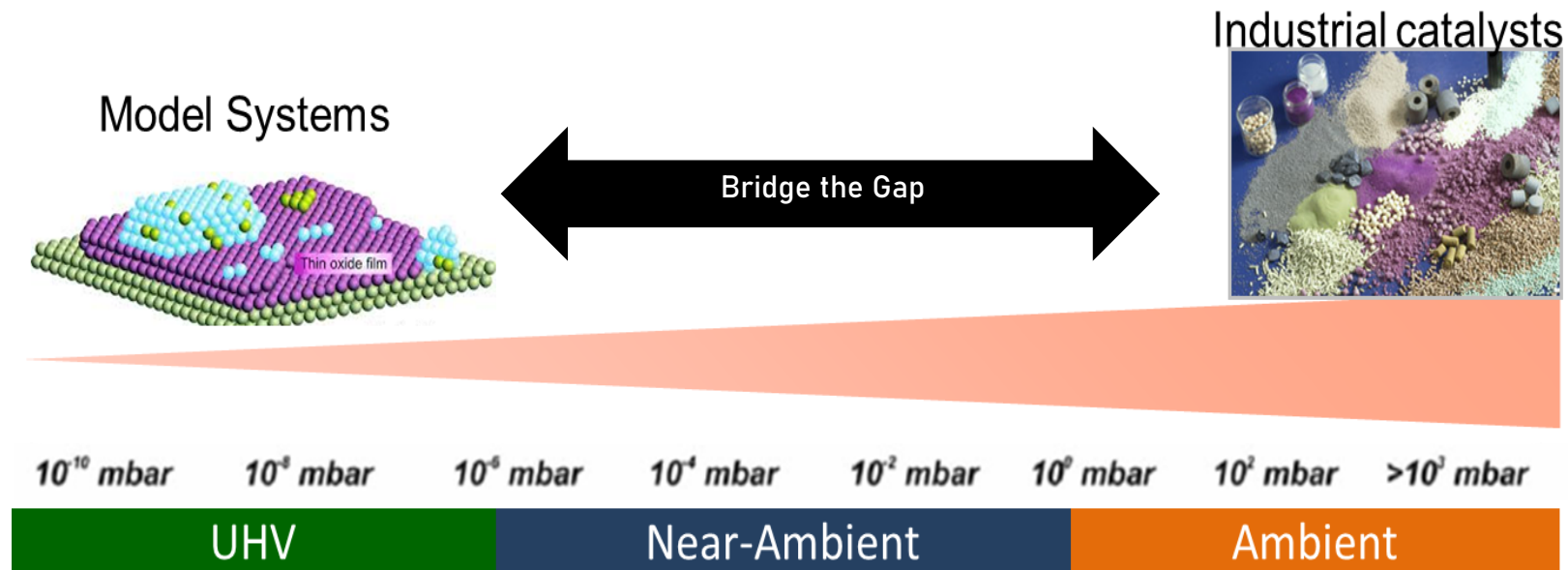
➤ Pure CO<sub>2</sub> is useful!!

- ✓ Dry reforming of methane  
 $\text{CH}_4 + \text{CO}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{CO} + 2\text{H}_2$
- ✓ Food storage



- ✓ Plant growth

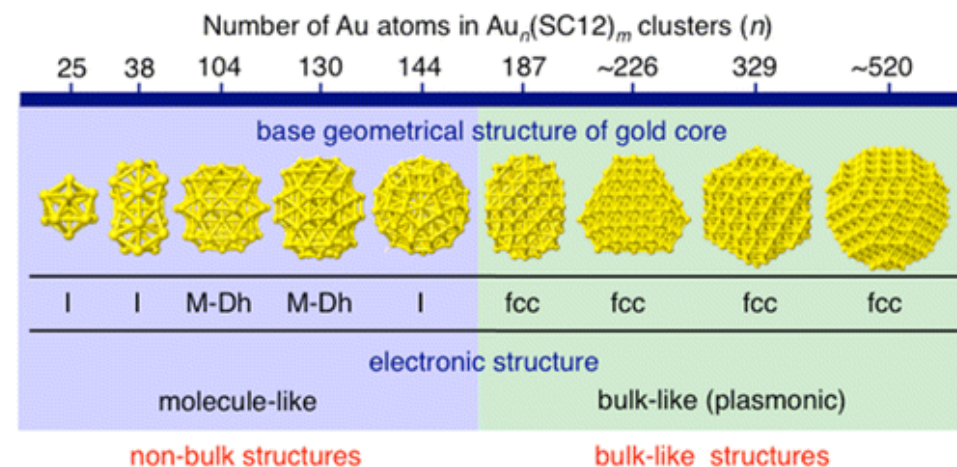
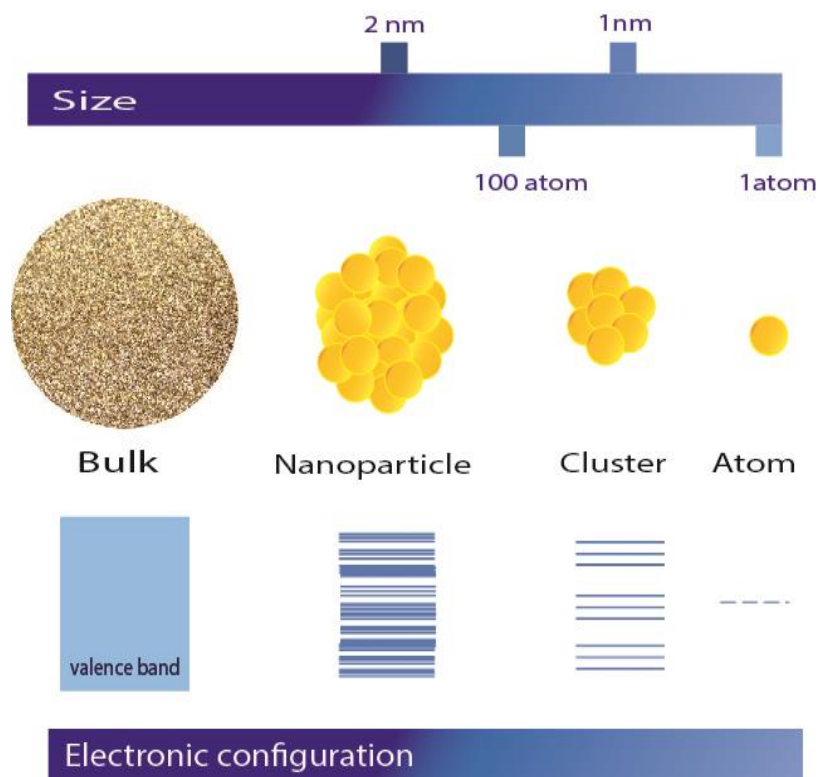




Needed:

- Well-defined material
- Working at ambient conditions

# Nanoclusters



Y. Negishi *et al.*, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **2015**, 137 (3), 1206

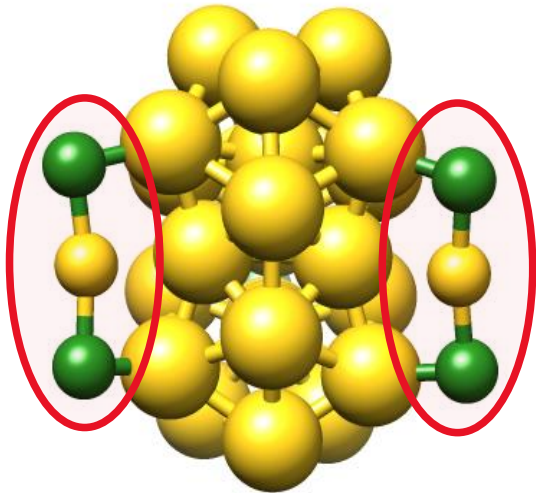
- ✓ Atomically defined
- ✓ Highly tuneable
- ✓ Unique structures



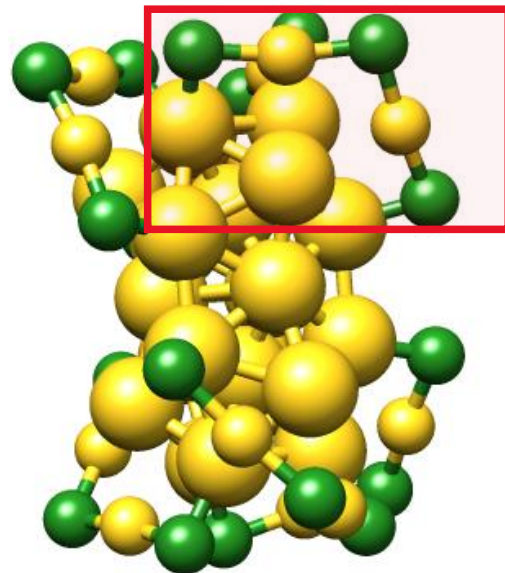
# What are Nanoclusters?



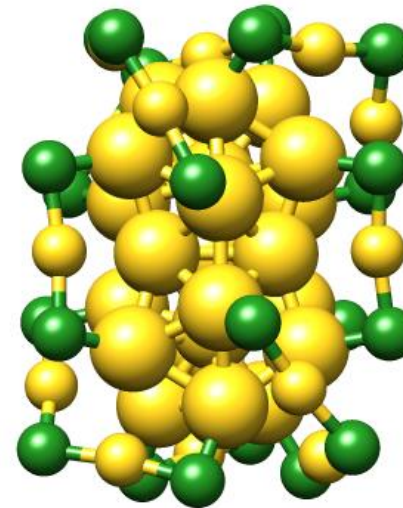
Short Staples



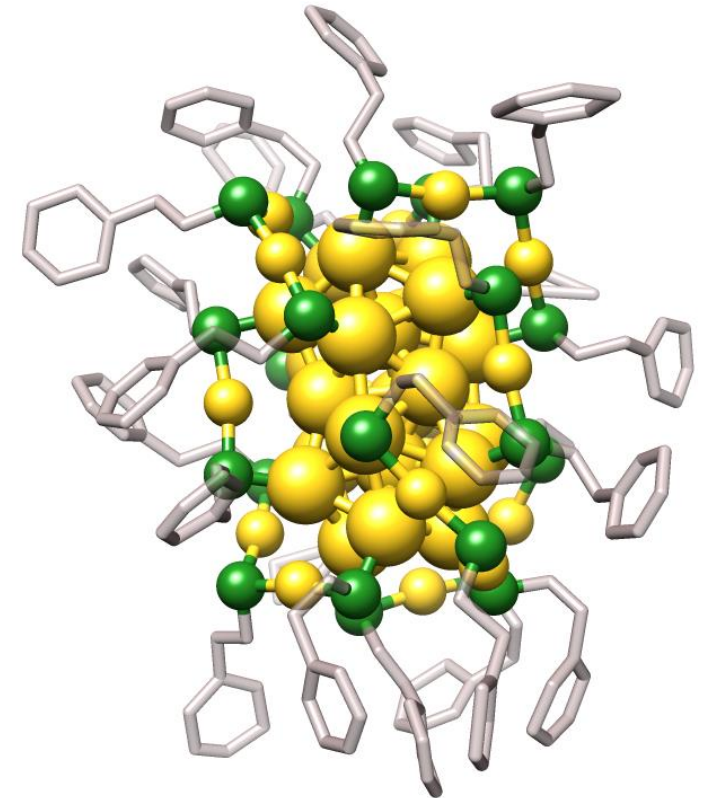
Long Staples



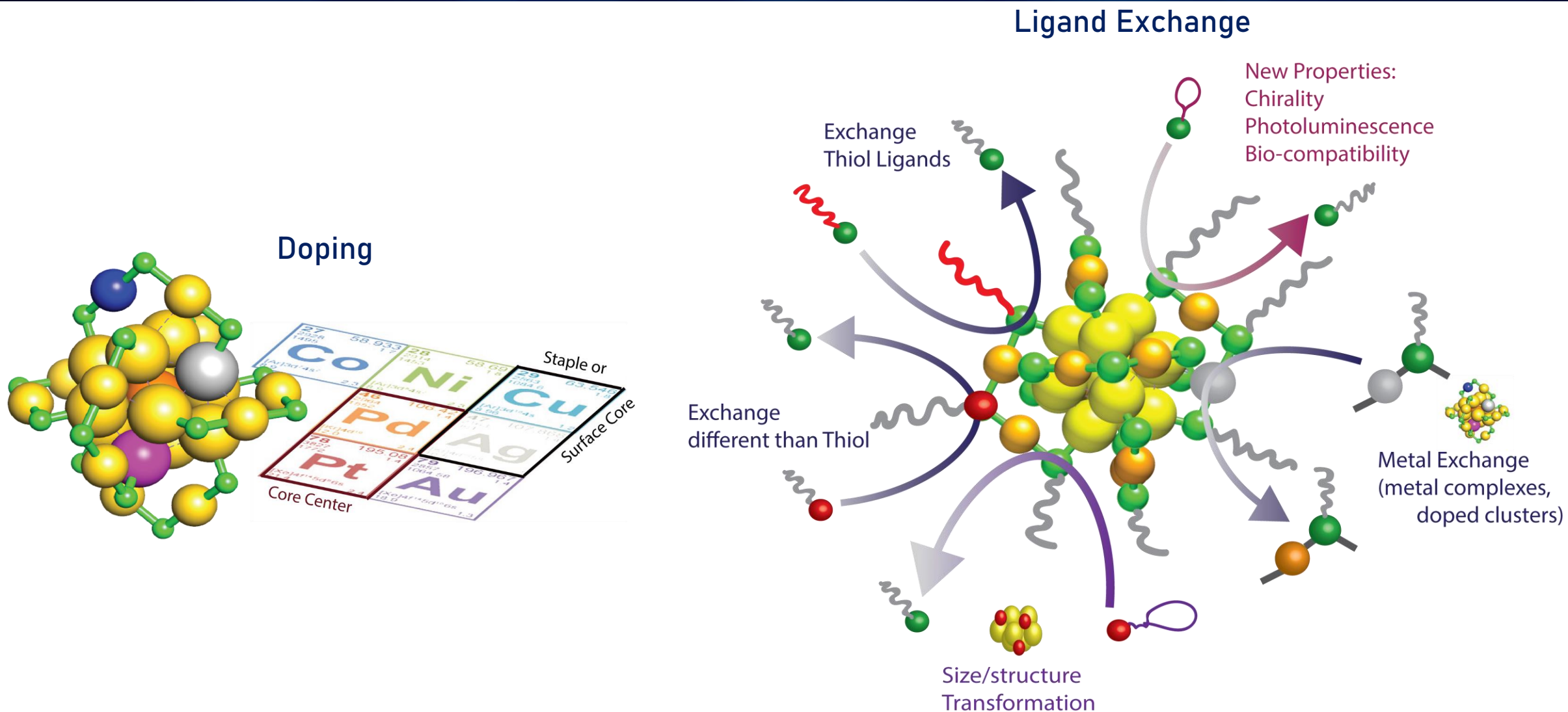
Full Ligand Shell



Full Structure

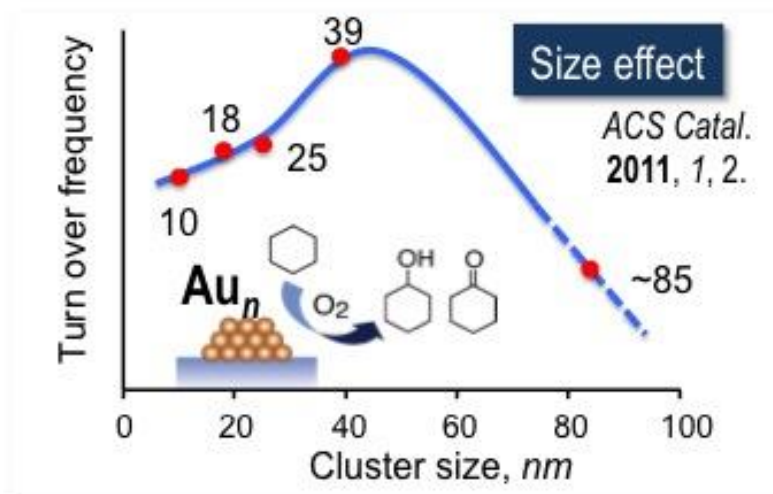


# Tuneable Properties

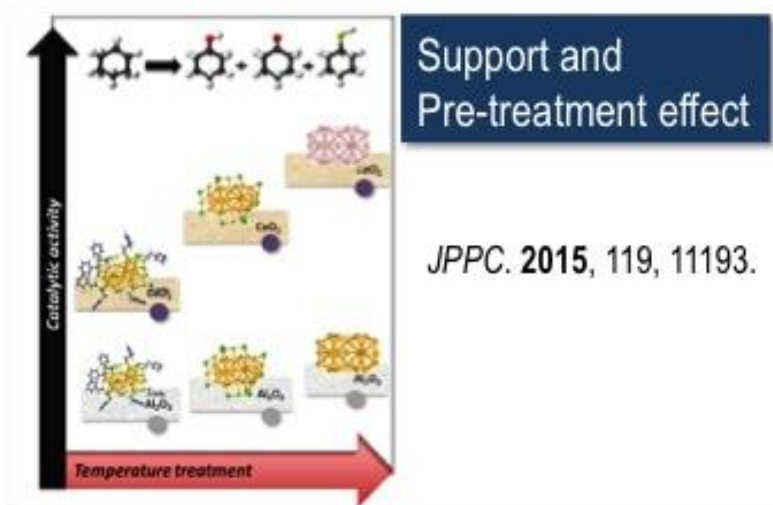
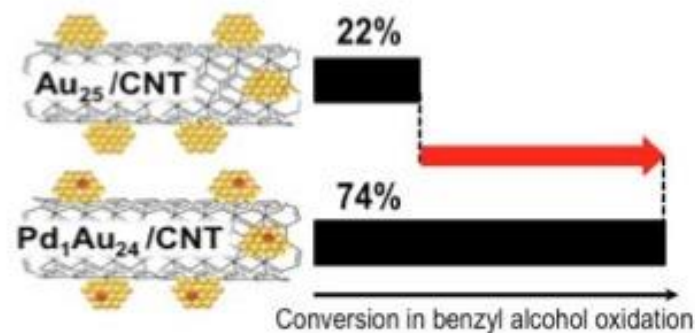




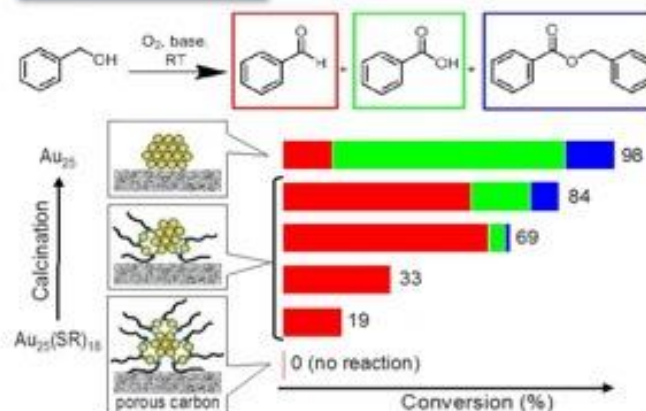
# Influencing Catalytic Activity



**Composition effect** *ACS Catal.* **2012**, *2*, 1519.

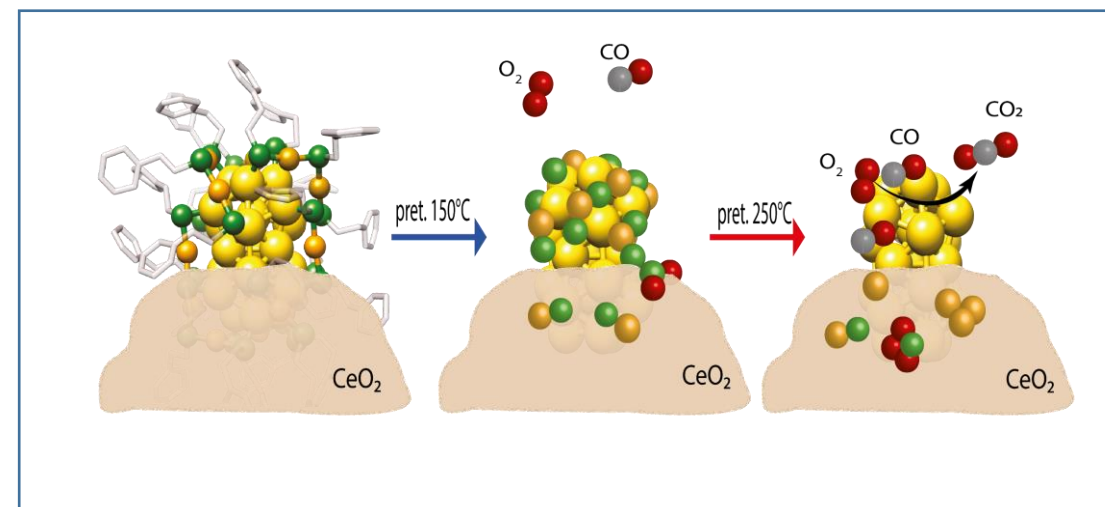
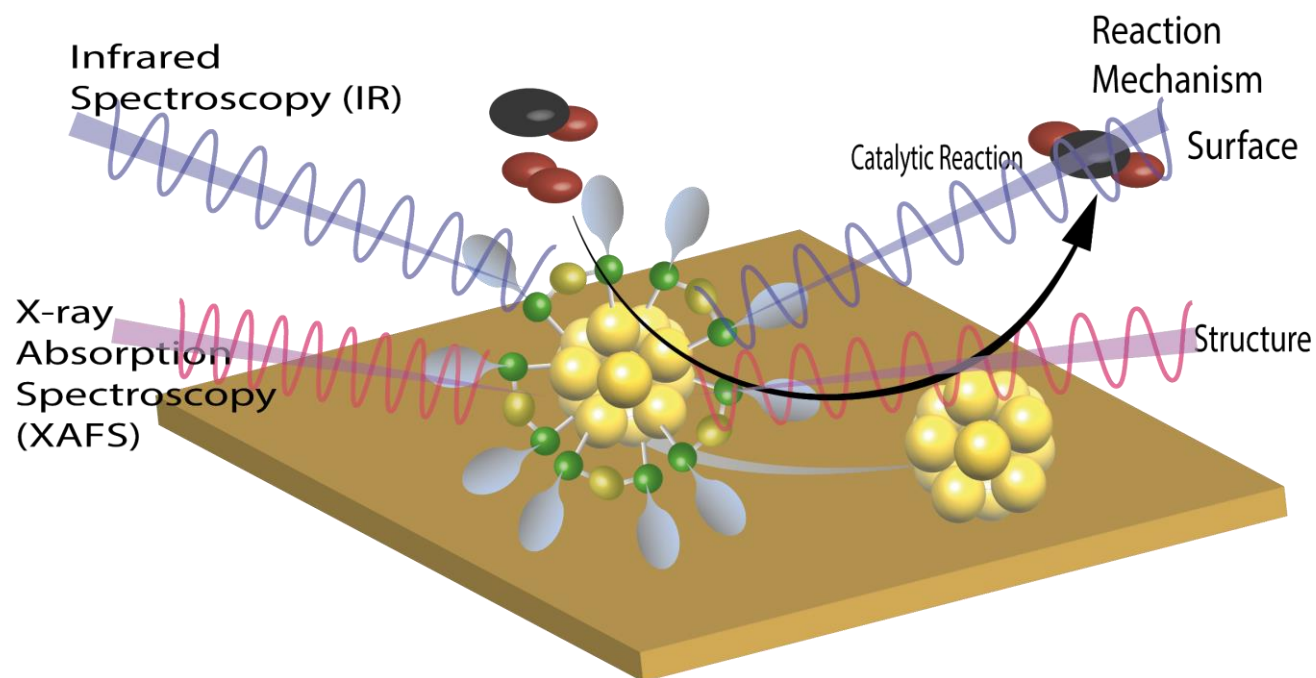


**Ligand effect** *ACS Catal.* **2014**, *4*, 3696.

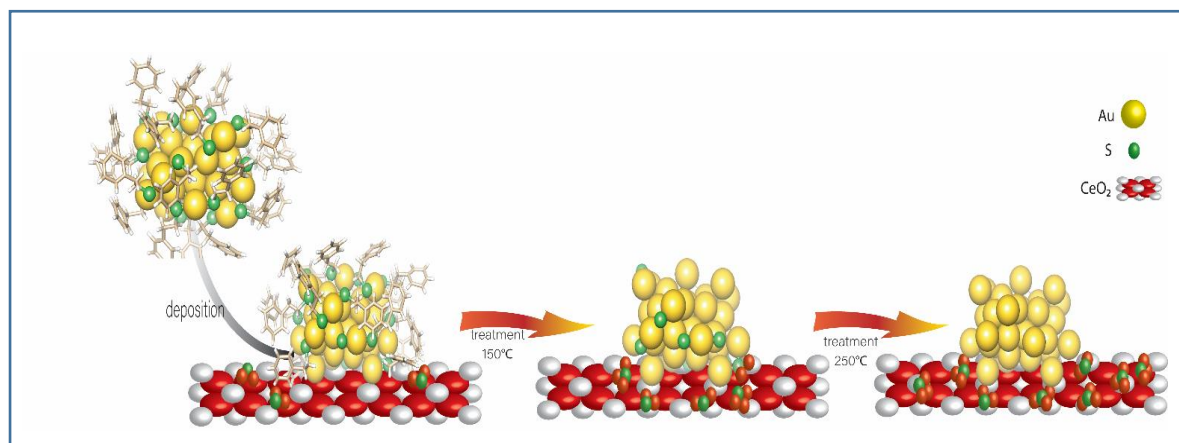




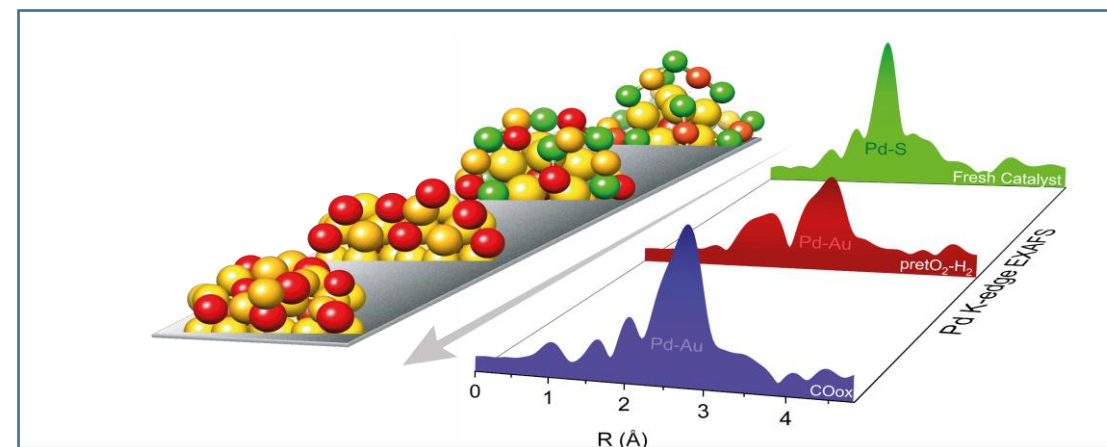
# Nanoclusters in Heterogeneous Catalysis



Pollitt et al. ACS Catalysis 2020



B.Zhang et al. ChemCatChem 2018, V.Truttmann et al. ChemCatChem 2022



Garcia et al. JPCC 2020

# Nanocluster preparation



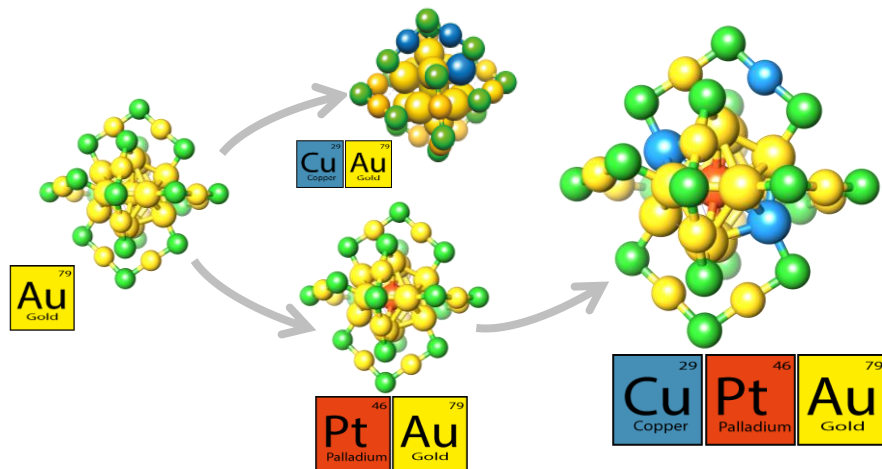
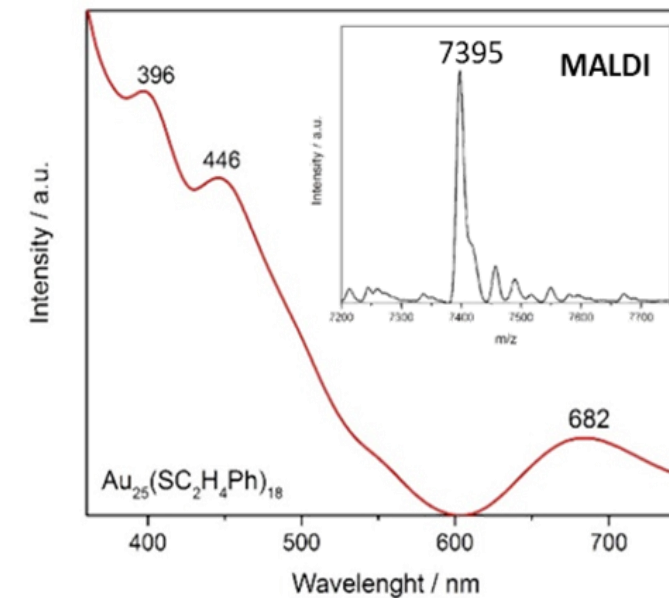
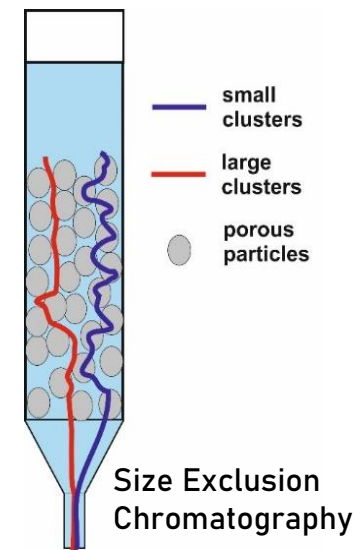
## $\text{Au}_{25}(\text{2-PET})_{18}$ Synthesis

Metal Salts

Phase Transfer Catalyst

Reducing agent

2-PET

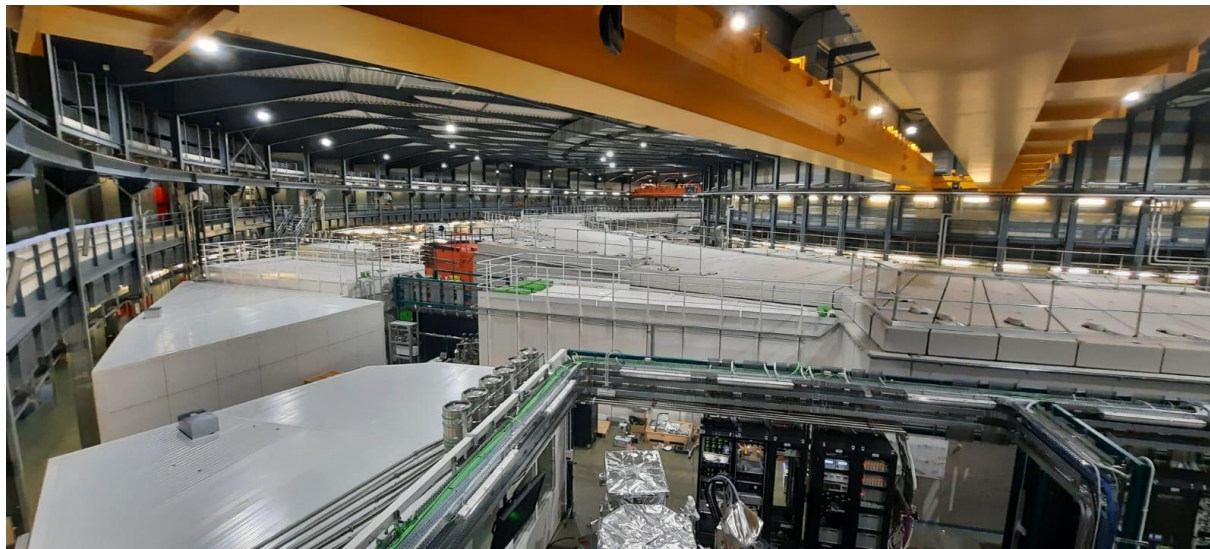
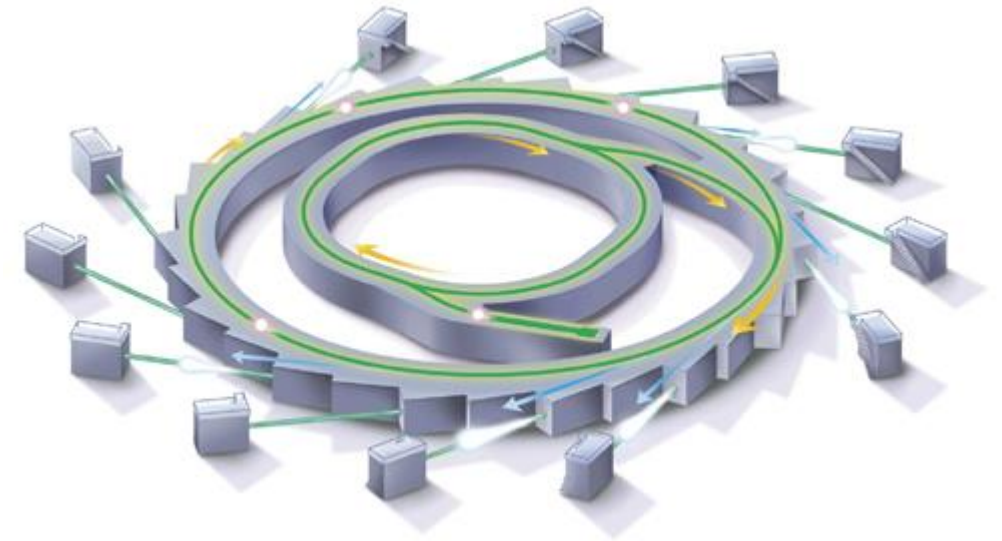


Mix with  $\text{CeO}_2$

Supported Catalyst

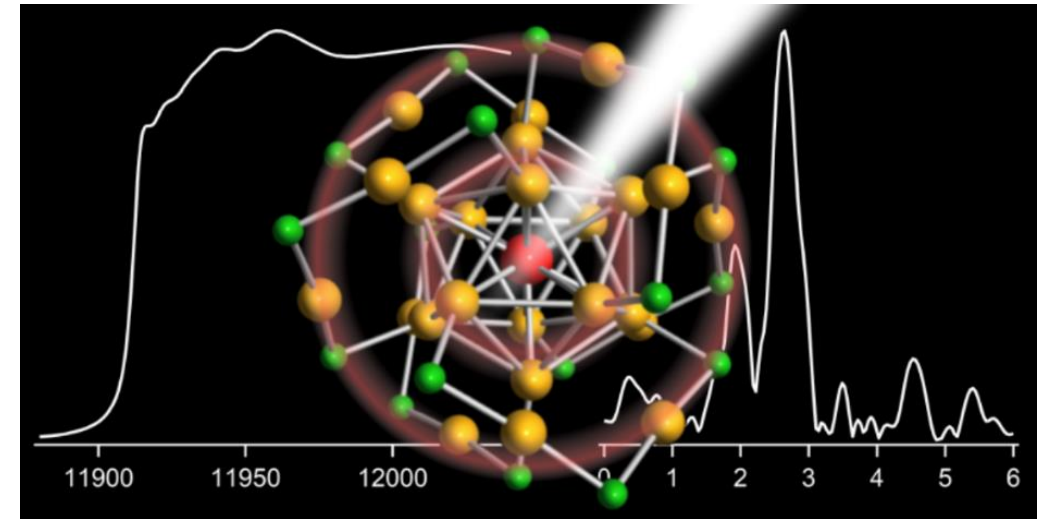


# Synchrotron



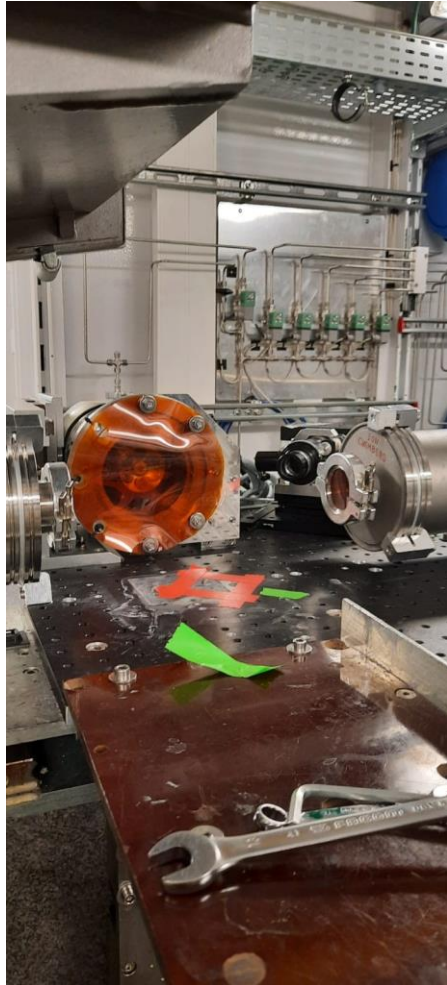


## EXAFS & XANES





# Measurement Set-Up

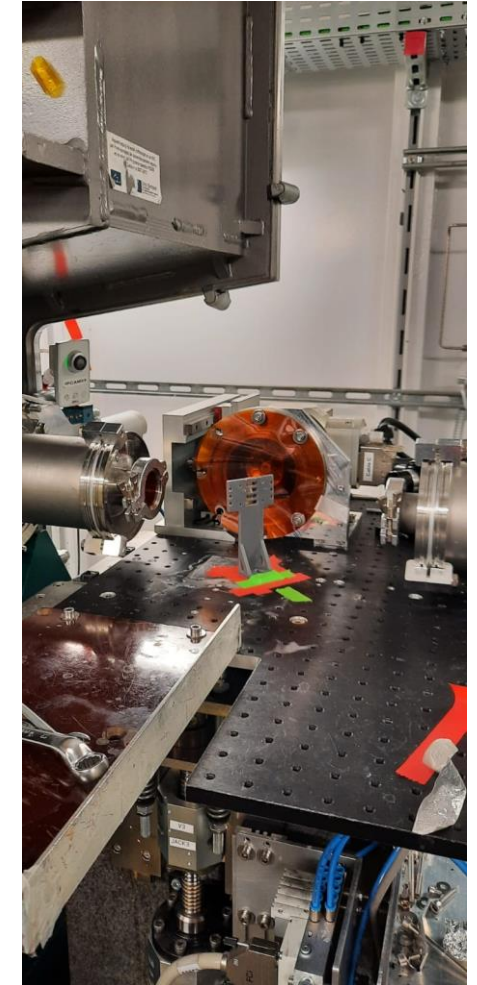


← 2 Types of Detection  
➤ Transmission  
➤ **Fluorescence**

2 Different Measurements →



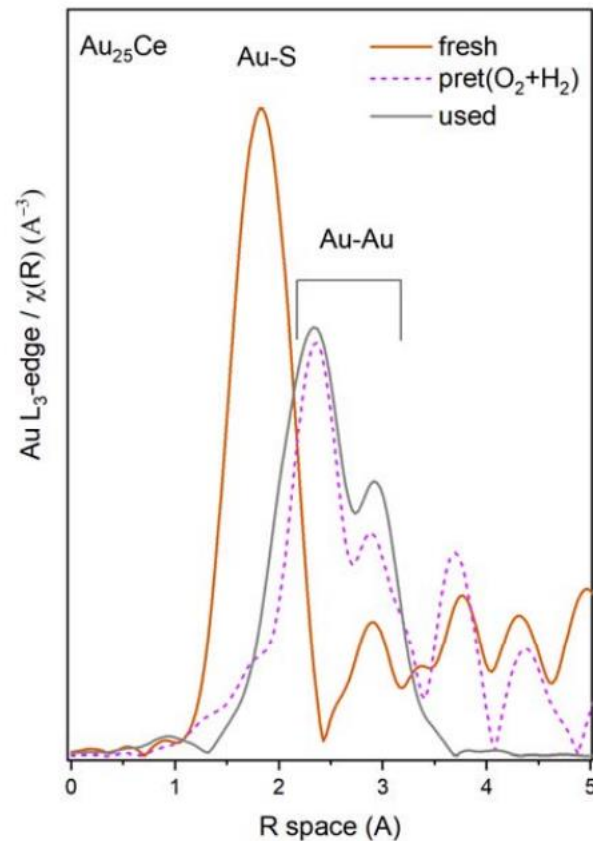
In-Situ



Static

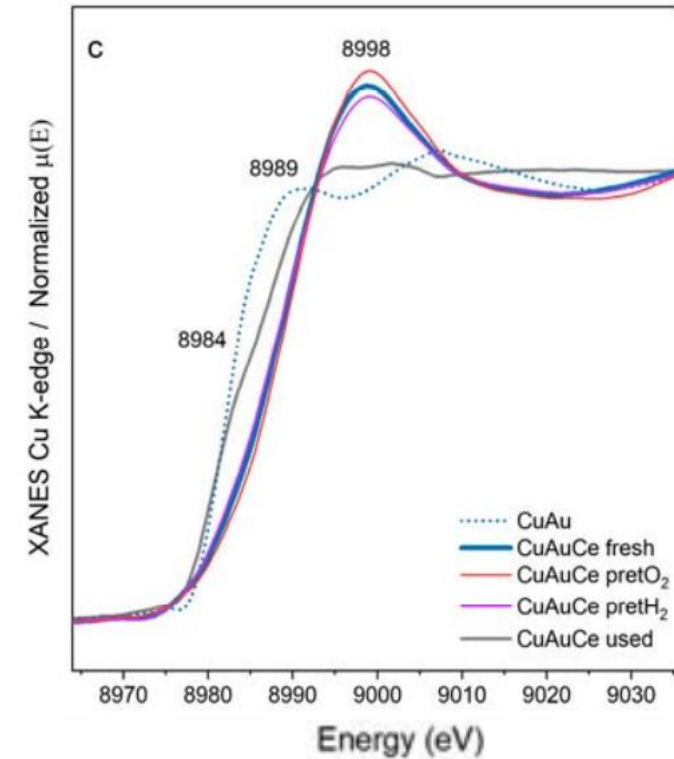
## Au L<sub>3</sub>-edge

### EXAFS



- Staples are dismantled after pre-treatment

### XANES



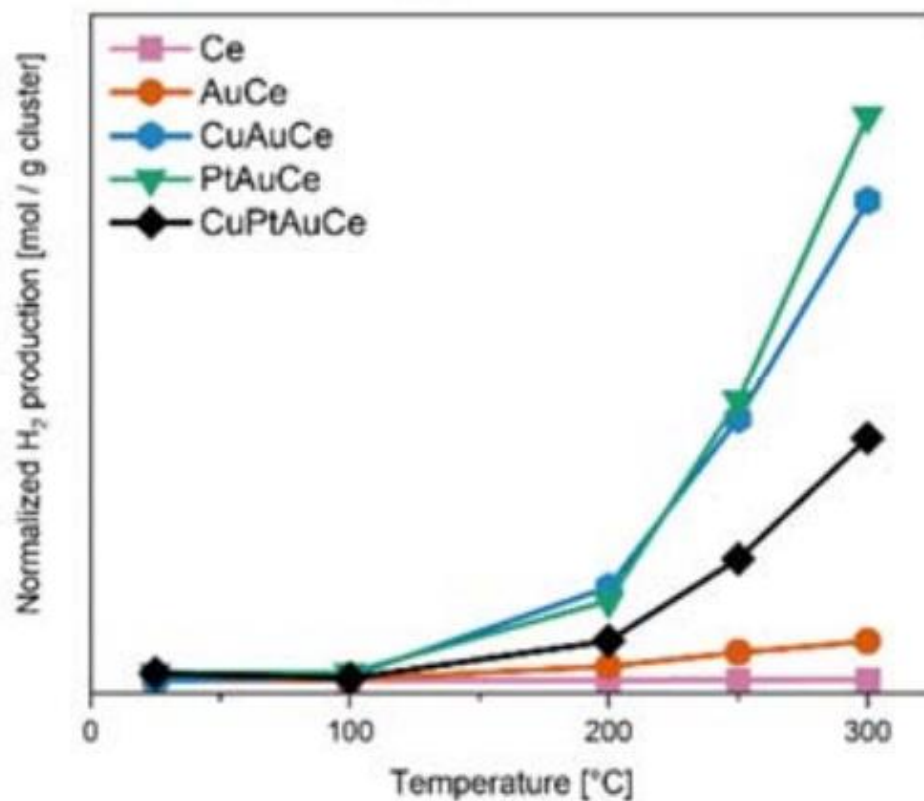
- Au oxidation state changes



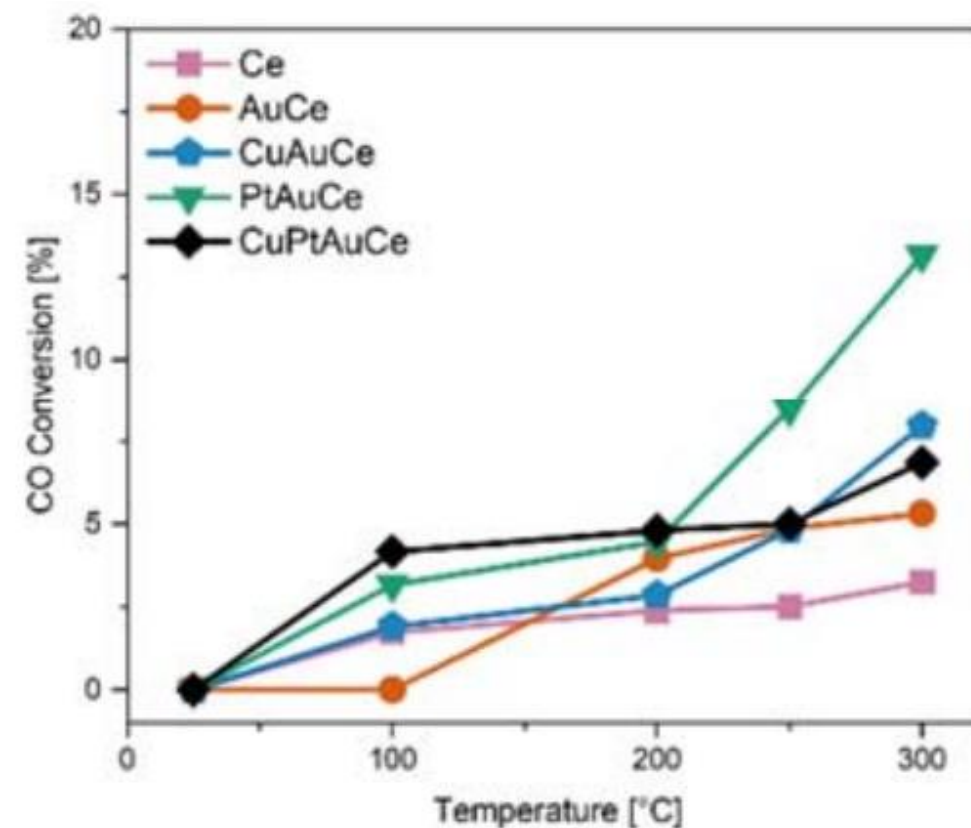
# Catalytic Activity Studies



Formation of  $H_2$



Conversion of CO



➤ Doping increases catalytic activity -> synergistic effect

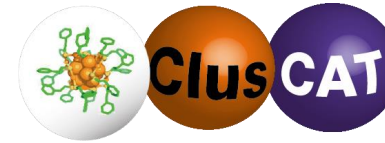
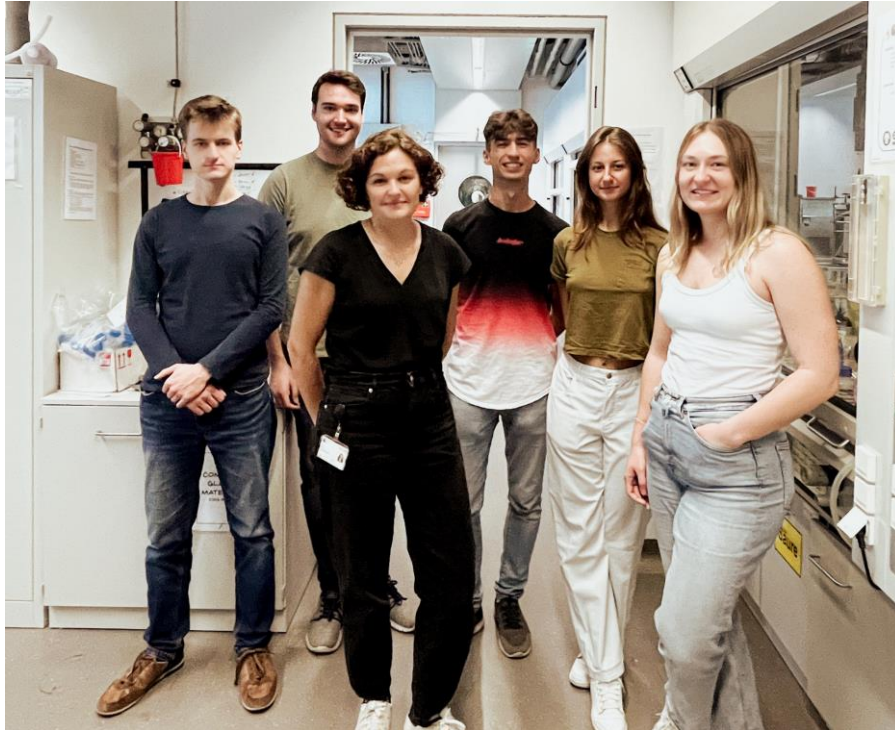
# Conclusions & Outlook



- ✓ Atomically defined systems allow to understand reaction at atomic level
  - ✓ Doping increases activity
  - ✓ Bimetallic clusters more stable
  - ✓ Migration of dopants
  - ✓ Dynamic structure of the clusters
- 
- Check for effect of support
  - Try other cluster sizes
  - Check effect of the ligand



# Acknowledgements



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