

From von Humboldt into the Anthropocene

On the occasion of Alexander von Humboldt's 250th birthday this symposium will assess, evaluate, and highlight his contributions to the field of Earth System Science and beyond, including life-long learning and the dissemination of scientific results.

Alexander von Humboldt's seminal contributions addressed numerous topics in the Earth sciences – spanning from geobotany, climatology, paleontology, oceanography, stratigraphy, mineralogy, resources, and hydrogeology to links between the environmental impact of humans, erosion and climate change. Early on he thus paved the way for a modern, integrated Earth System Science approach to decipher, characterize and model the different forcing factors and their feedback mechanisms that govern the Earth's systems.

The future of Earth System Science

Today, the highly interdisciplinary field of Earth System Science stands at the vanguard of our attempt to understand and cope with those changes in our natural environment that continue to challenge us. In this way, Earth System Science will be essential to fostering awareness and facilitating discussion of key environmental and social issues in the 21st century.

Program

Please see www.uni-potsdam.de/earth/humboldt for further information and titles of the oral presentations

Wednesday, June 19

Festivity Hall

19:00 – 20:30 | Public Lecture

Alexander von Humboldt. Die Erfindung der Natur (in German)
Andrea Wulf, London

Thursday, June 20

Seminar Room 3

Concurrent Session

Teachers Workshop on the Concepts of Nature
organized by Christof Ellger, GeoUnion and Simon Schneider,
GeoEd and Universität Potsdam

9:00 – 12:00

Introduction and Discussion of Concepts of Nature

13:00 – 15:00

Educational Concepts and Best Practice

Thursday, June 20

Lecture Hall

9:00 – 10:00 | Welcome and Keynote

Gunnar Berg, Vice-President Leopoldina
Manfred Strecker, Universität Potsdam

The Invention of Nature

Andrea Wulf, London

10:30 – 12:00

Plate Tectonics
Celâl Şengör ML, Istanbul Technical University

Oceanography

Antje Boetius ML, Alfred Wegener Institut, Bremerhaven

Humboldt and Climate Change

Gerald Haug ML, MPI Chemie, Mainz

13:30 – 15:00

Unity in Multiplicity – Humboldt's Geography of Plants
Ulrich Päßler, Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der
Wissenschaften (oder BBAW)

Humboldt, Darwin, and the Art of Science Communication

Johannes Vogel, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin

History of Science

Ursula Klein ML, MPI Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Berlin

15:30 – 17:00

Humboldt's Understanding of the Andean Geology
Victor Ramos, Universidad de Buenos Aires

The Physics of the Earth

Volker Mosbrugger ML, Senckenberg Naturforschende
Gesellschaft

Challenges in Mining – Humboldt's Influence on today's Mining Routines

Helmut Albrecht, Technische Universität Bergakademie
Freiberg

Followed by Reception | Common Hall

Metamorph. Pluto. Fel-sar-ten
ML = Member of the Leopoldina

