

SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2019
HERRENHAUSEN PALACE, HANOVER, GERMANY

POSITIONING THE HUMANITIES IN THE 2020s

Since the new millennium, the humanities in the Anglo-Saxon world as well as the Geistes- and Kulturwissenschaften in Europe have been exposed to manifold constraints, threats, and opportunities. While on the one hand they were quite severely affected by paradigm shifts in the value systems of policy-makers and university leaders, thus redirecting resources towards apparently more useful and profit-making units (with higher impact on the university's overall performance). They were on the other hand also confronted with an increasing demand for providing their specific knowledge base and expertise in culturally embedded matters such as ethnic and religious conflicts or the changing modes of communication in a digitalized world. It is against this background that the envisaged Herrenhausen Symposium, organized by the Volkswagen Foundation and the German U15 Universities, intends to focus on a sound analysis of the present situation and achievements made. However, a particular emphasis will be put on future developments and strategically important opportunities for the respective knowledge domains in the 2020s. What will be their role in an increasingly instable world? How can they protect their scholarly autonomy and pave the way for a high trust culture of creativity? What bold steps should be taken?

There is no fee for the attendance, but registration is essential. Please visit www.volkswagenstiftung.de for more information.

PROGRAM

Tuesday, September 10th, 2019

1:00 P.M. REGISTRATION

2:00 P.M. **WORDS OF WELCOME**
Wilhelm Krull, Volkswagen Foundation, Germany
Hans-Jochen Schiewer, German U15, Germany

SESSION 1: ANALYSIS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION
CHAIR: **Hans-Jochen Schiewer**, German U15, Germany

The Humanities Between Neoliberalism and Religious/Political Fundamentalism
Homi K. Bhabha, Harvard Humanities Center, USA

Roundtable: Humanities/Geisteswissenschaften/Sciences Humaines: To What Extent Will Their Perspective Differ in the Future?
Homi K. Bhabha, Harvard Humanities Center, USA
Marie-Christine Fontana, enconcept, Switzerland
Joseph Chinyong Liow, College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
Luiz Oosterbeek, Instituto Politécnico de Tomar, Portugal, and International Council of Philosophy and Human Sciences (UNESCO)

- 4:30 P.M. COFFEE BREAK
- 5:00 P.M. **SESSION 2: THE HUMANITIES FACING GLOBALIZATION AND THE RISE OF NEW AUTHORITARIANISM**
CHAIR: **Günter M. Ziegler**, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
- The Humanities in the Era of Postcolonialism – Objects and Discourse*
Premesh Lal, Centre for Humanities Research, University of the Western Cape, South Africa
- The Importance of „Language“ in the Humanities*
Stefan Helgesson, The World Literature Project, Stockholm, Sweden
- Saving Democracy or Fostering Populism? The Humanities and the Identity of Societies*
Ian Baucom, Arts and Sciences, University of Virginia, USA
- Post-Eurocentric Humanities*
Bernhard Jussen, Goethe University Frankfurt/Main, Germany
- 7:00 p.m. Lightning Talks by Early Career Researchers
CHAIR: **Vera Szöllösi-Brenig**, Volkswagen Foundation, Germany
- 8:00 P.M. POSTER SESSION AND RECEPTION

Wednesday, September 11th, 2019

- 9:00 A.M. **SESSION 3: HUMANITIES IN THE DIGITAL ERA**
CHAIR: **Birgitta Wolff**, Goethe University Frankfurt/Main, Germany
- Short Statements (10 min) and Discussion*
- Digitization and Digitalization in the Humanities – A Paradigm Shift?*
Eva Schlotheuber, University of Düsseldorf, Germany
Martin Rohrmeier, EPFL Lausanne, Switzerland
- The End of Individualism: Can the Humanist Scholar Survive in the Digital Era?*
Steffen Mau, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany
Martha Nell Smith, Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities, USA
- 11:00 A.M. COFFEE BREAK

11:30 A.M.

SESSION 3 (CONT.): HUMANITIES IN THE DIGITAL ERA

The Humanities and their New Topics – A New Notion of Culture

Saadi Lahlou, London School of Economics, United Kingdom

Simon Goldhill, Center for Research in Art, Social Sciences, and Humanities (CRASSH), Cambridge University, United Kingdom

The Humanities without Books on Paper?

Michael Hagner, ETH Zürich, Switzerland

1:00 P.M.

LUNCH

2:30 P.M.

SESSION 4: CHALLENGES FOR AND ADVANCES OF THE HUMANITIES: 4 PARALLEL WORKING GROUPS

Working Group 1: The Humanities and its Evaluation: Reputation vs Bibliometrics

Kavita Sivaramakrishnan, Department of History, Columbia University, USA

Gunnar Sivertsen, Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education, Norway

Working Group 2: The Humanities at the Universities of the Future – How to Stress their Intrinsic Value?

Ulrike Beisiegel, University of Göttingen, Germany

N.N.

Working Group 3: Critique, Self-Reflection and Civic Engagement – An Important Task for the Humanities?

Susan Schreibman, Maastricht University, The Netherlands

Dan O'Brien, Oxford Brookes University, United Kingdom

Working Group 4: The Humanities and the Arts – Relations and Interactions

Dorrit Vibeke Sorensen, School of Art, Design and Media, Singapore

Beate Söntgen, Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany

5:00 P.M.

COFFEE BREAK AND POSTER SESSION

5:30 P.M.

SESSION 5: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN DIFFERENT RESEARCH CULTURES – HUMANITIES AND THE NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

CHAIR: **Dieter Lenzen**, Universität Hamburg, Germany

Winfried Menninghaus, Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics, Frankfurt, Germany

Barry Smith, University of London, United Kingdom

Sverker Sörlin, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden

Jeroen van den Hoven, Delft University, The Netherlands

Hsiung Ping-Chen, The Chinese University of Hongkong, China

7:00 P.M.

DINNER

Thursday, September 12th, 2019

9:00 A.M. **SESSION 6: THE HUMANITIES' CONTRIBUTION TO MEETING CHALLENGES OF A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**
CHAIR: **Georg Krausch**, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany

Short Statements and Panel Discussion

Gustaf Arrhenius, Institute for Futures Studies, and Professor, Department of Philosophy, Stockholm University, Sweden

Anna-Katharina Hornidge, Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research & University of Bremen, Germany

Frank Uekötter, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

Evi Zemanek, University of Freiburg, Germany

10:30 A.M. COFFEE BREAK AND POSTER SESSION

11:00 A.M. **SESSION 7: RESULTS OF THE WORKING GROUPS AND DEFINING THE AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE OF THE HUMANITIES IN THE 2020S**

CHAIR: **Wilhelm Krull**, VolkswagenStiftung, Germany

Carlos Diaz-Rosillo, National Endowment for the Humanities, USA

Hans-Jochen Schiewer, German U15, Germany

Susan Schreibman, Maastricht University, The Netherlands

Beate Söntgen, Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany

NN, representative of the early career researchers

12:30 P.M. CLOSING REMARKS, LUNCH AND END OF CONFERENCE

ORGANIZERS



GERMAN **U15**