

Global Humanities

Herrenhausen Symposium by the Volkswagen Foundation, Germany
in cooperation with Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Sweden

Herrenhausen Palace, Hanover, Germany
June 16 and 17, 2014

The humanities are indispensable in generating knowledge about society, politics, values, identities, and factors influencing them in the past and the future. Furthermore the formative, humane and civilizing function of the humanities even nowadays is seen as one of the most important reasons for providing opportunities to study them in depth at university. Yet, these disciplines and their scholars are facing an environment that has rapidly changed over the past two decades. It is required of them to constantly cope with ongoing change and to develop solutions for future challenges. If we want to meet the enormous societal challenges ahead of us, it will be indispensable to make use of the integrative capacity of the humanities in a much more effective and inclusive manner than we have done so far.

The specific strengths, opportunities, and perspectives of the humanities need to be looked at more closely for they have the possibility of bridging gaps between cultures, they can help to prevent us from taking an all too narrow perspective on issues such as digitization and globalization. It is therefore time to rethink and reconfigure the specific strengths of the humanities in a globalized world. Thus, the Herrenhausen Symposium on “Global Humanities” tackles the role of the humanities in an international context discussing the concept of originality and of quality. Besides, it is dealing with challenging aspects such as the interaction between expert culture and the general public as well as the structures in organisations and between researchers that may need further development. In times of crisis when the humanities try to re-establish themselves in new domains (eco-humanities, dig-humanities, etc.) this symposium discusses possible ways ahead for their social positioning in times of many demands and scarce resources.

Monday, June 16, 2014	
10:00 p.m.	Registration
11:00 p.m.	Welcome Addresses Wilhelm Krull Secretary General, Volkswagen Foundation, Germany Göran Blomqvist Director, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Sweden
Key Social Trends and the Humanities – The Current State of Research Chair: Wilhelm Krull , Secretary General, Volkswagen Foundation, Germany	
11:15 p.m.	<i>The Global Humanities Report</i> Arne Jarrick University of Stockholm, Sweden <i>Cultural Dynamics and Global Humanities</i> Homi K. Bhabha Mahindra Humanities Centre, Harvard University, USA
1:00 p.m.	Lunch

What is Originality in the Humanities? Chair: Jochen Schiewer , Vice Chancellor, University of Freiburg, Germany	
2:30 p.m.	Michèle Lamont Robert I. Goldman Professor of European Studies; Professor of Sociology and African and African American Studies, Harvard University, USA
4:00 p.m.	Coffee Break
Re-Thinking Purpose and Quality of the Humanities Chair: Göran Blomqvist , Director, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Sweden	
4:30 p.m.	Dominic Scott Professor in Ancient Greek Philosophy, University of Virginia, USA Olivier Bouin Director, Réseau Français des Instituts d'Études Avancées, France
6:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:30 p.m.	Keynote Irina Boková (tbc) Director General, UNESCO
8:30 p.m.	Get-Together

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Expert Culture and Comprehensibility for the General Public Chair: Carsten Könneker , Editor-in-Chief, Spektrum der Wissenschaft (tbc)	
09:00 a.m.	Suwanna Satha-Anand Professor of Philosophy, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand Poul Holm Trinity Long Room Hub Professor of Humanities, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
11:00 a.m.	Coffee Break
11:30 p.m.	Roberto Blancarte Centre for Sociological Studies, El Colegio de México, Mexico Barbara Göbel Director, Ibero-American Institute, Germany
1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break
Summary and Debate: Which Way Ahead for the Humanities? Chair: Wilhelm Krull , Secretary General, Volkswagen Foundation, Germany	
2:00 p.m.	Kerstin Sahlin Secretary General for Humanities and Social Sciences, Swedish Council of Science and Humanities and Professor for Economics, University of Uppsala, Sweden Thandi Mgwebi Executive Director, Institutional Engagement and Partnership Development, National Research Foundation, South Africa Anne Jerslev Department of Media, Cognition and Communication, University of Copenhagen Arne Jarrick Homi K. Bhabha
4:00 p.m.	End of Conference