

Press Release

Berlin, 12 September 2019

Two large video projections on the Humboldt Forum's east facade to mark Alexander von Humboldt's 250th birthday

*O Ciclo Anual no Rio Tiquié / The Tiquié River annual cycle
250 years young! All is interaction*

Two artistic large-format videos will set the Humboldt Forum's eastern facade into motion on Friday and Saturday evening, 13 and 14 September, starting at 9 pm. Indigenous natural scientists will show visitors and passers-by the starry skies of the Amazon and allow them to experience Alexander von Humboldt in a unique series of moving images and quotations. The video projections – best viewed from the Marx-Engels-Forum, are freely visible to all. Information regarding the entire festival programme as well as online registration is available at humboldtforum.org/avh250.

O Ciclo Anual no Rio Tiquié / The Tiquié River annual cycle offers Berlin audiences their first opportunity to view the work of indigenous illustrators of Brazil's upper Rio Negro. For the video, members of the Tuyuka, Tukano, Desana and Yebamasa depicted the constellations which guide their elders in their observations of the annual cycle. This fascinating insight into the complexity of indigenous knowledge, told in an artistic and dramatic fashion by the indigenous people themselves, is a unique collaborative work of art. It offers a platform for visual encounters between two worlds that have shared a common heritage ever since the days of Alexander von Humboldt.

The video project was carried out by the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss in close collaboration with the Ethnologisches Museum, a member of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, and the Brazilian NGO Instituto Socioambiental (ISA), which has conducted projects focusing on indigenous education and intercultural research on the upper Rio Negro since 2003. *O Ciclo Anual no Rio Tiquié / The Tiquié River Annual Cycle* focuses viewers' attention on the fragility of indigenous ways of life – including all of the consequences arising from this fragility. At present, the work of NGOs such as the ISA in Brazil faces massive obstacles, and the living environment of the Amazon is now under greater threat than ever before in its history.

The concept for the facade projection arose from the long-term cooperative project *Sharing Knowledge* developed at the Humboldt Lab Dahlem (2012–15) which, thanks to the support of the Volkswagen Foundation and the German Federal Cultural Foundation, continues its work at the Ethnologisches Museum.

250 years young! All is interaction

As part of the Alexander von Humboldt year 2019, the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berlin Schloss will transform the Humboldt Forum's eastern facade into a stage depicting the life and thought of Alexander von Humboldt with the video project *Still Young at 250! All is interaction*. "All is interaction" – Humboldt's most important observation concerning nature and the world – will be explored in an interplay of light, imagery and architecture.

The video projection is a journey into the complex and multifaceted work of this fascinating scientist, explorer and philosopher and is shaped by his understanding of the sciences: observing from a variety of perspectives, formulating in a number of languages and unifying nature and culture. The video projection depicts Humboldt not as a hero, but as a real person and scientist.

For Ottmar Ette of Universität Potsdam, Humboldt is certainly a historical figure, but he is also a contemporary of ours: "Some of his thought has entered into history, much of it is extremely topical and a significant amount has yet to be settled." The night-time projections also call to mind that Humboldt worked through the nights and slept little. He was constantly travelling between Berlin and Paris, Europe, the Americas and Asia, but he also switched between the languages of German and French as well as a number of other languages.

Two-day public festival

To mark the 250th birthday of Alexander von Humboldt (born 14 September 1769 – died 6 May 1859), the Humboldt Forum will host a two-day public festival on 13 and 14 September together with the Goethe-Institut. Around sixty artists and experts from around the world whose work focuses on Latin America will present their views on Humboldt's themes and insights. At this highlight of the Alexander von Humboldt Year 2019, visitors can expect a diverse programme of exhibitions, installations, performances, lectures and discussions. The entire festival programme as well as online registration is available at humboldtforum.org/avh250.

Two large video projections on the Humboldt Forum's east facade to mark Alexander von Humboldt's 250th birthday

O Ciclo Anual no Rio Tiquié / The Tiquié River annual cycle
250 years young! All is interaction

Date: Friday/Saturday, 13 and 14 September 2019

Time: from 9 pm

Venue: East facade of the Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss, best viewed from the Marx-Engels-Forum

Admission free

Discussion with Andrea Scholz and the team behind the facade projection

O Ciclo Anual no Rio Tiquié / The Tiquié River annual cycle

Saturday, 14 September, 1:20 bis 1:40 am, Hall 1 in the Humboldt Forum

Additional facilitated discussion with Andrea Scholz and the team behind the facade projection on Friday, 13 September, at 7:45 pm and Saturday, 14 September, at 2:10 pm and 4:45 pm.

Discussion with Ottmar Ette and Sandra Rebok about Alexander von Humboldt and the topicality of his thinking and approaches

Saturday, 14 September, 8 pm, Hall 1 in the Humboldt Forum

Registration for the discussions is free of charge. Please visit humboldtforum.org/avh250

Press contacts

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250 years young! **Alexander von Humboldt's Birthday**

Public event on 13 and 14 September 2019, with contributions from Bogotá, Lima, London, Mexico City, Novosibirsk, Potsdam, Quito und Berlin

Date Friday/Saturday, 13 and 14 September 2019

Time Friday 7 pm to 2 am, Saturday 12 pm to 12 am

Entrance Friday beginning at 6 pm, Saturday beginning at 11:45 am

Venue Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss

Admission is free of charge. Please register online at humboldtforum.org/avh250

Language All events will take place in the original language, usually with translations into German, English and Spanish.

Accreditation for the press conference on 13 September 2019 at 11 am Please register by email by sending your request to michael.mathis@humboldtforum.org

Programme Lavinia Frey (Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss), Andrea Rostásy; Joachim Bernauer (Goethe-Institut) and Wenzel Bilger (Goethe-Institut)

An event organized by the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss (SHF) in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut as a part of the Alexander von Humboldt Year 2019.

The Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss is sponsored by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media as well as the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community and by a decision of the German Bundestag.

The event topics *La naturaleza de las cosas: Humboldt, idas y venidas, Experimenta/Sur: Tejidos conectivos, Humboldt360°* | *Eine Expedition in Lateinamerika* and *Humboldt Hackatón de realidad mixta* are a part of the *Humboldt y las Americas* programme, funded by the Federal Foreign Office. The video projection *O Ciclo Anual no Rio Tiquié* is a cooperative project of the SHF together with the Ethnologisches Museum of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin and the Instituto Socioambiental (ISA).

Media partners: Deutsche Welle, rbb

The participating actors are the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz (SPK) with the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst of the

Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Kulturprojekte Berlin and the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, with a leading role for the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss

Additional information is available at

humboldtforum.org/avh250

and

goethe.de/kolumbien/kosmos

#AvH250

The Goethe-Institut's **Dossier of Themes** with interviews, films, images and contributions focusing on the event is available online from 13 September at goethe.de/kolumbien/kosmos.

Presse contacts

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Press images can be downloaded at humboldtforum.org/presse