

Press release

Berlin, 22 November 2017

Science in Motion

The Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin's Humboldt-Labor in the Humboldt Forum

On Wednesday, **22 November 2017**, **Sabine Kunst**, president of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU), **Neil MacGregor**, head of the Steering Committee at the Humboldt Forum, and **staff members of the HU** will give some insights into the current state of planning for the future **Humboldt-Labor** in the **Humboldt Forum**. They are planning a **lively new space for knowledge and science** structured around a number of specific examples. These thoughts and approaches are outlined in a **brochure**.

In late 2019 the HU will open its section of the Humboldt Forum, which is located on the first floor of the Berlin Palace with around 1,000 m² of floor space. Visitors will be able to get a first-hand view of science in action and even take part in current research. The close collaboration between the HU and the Humboldt Forum will create a unique partnership, in terms of both content and structure.

An open platform for outstanding research

Five of the HU's cluster initiatives are presently competing nationally for Excellence status; four of them are cooperative programmes in conjunction with the Technische Universität Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. These research initiatives, which bring together life sciences, natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, will serve as the initial starting point for the Humboldt-Labor, along with other selected fields of research.

Citizen science, serious gaming and science slams

The Humboldt-Labor offers visitors a broad spectrum of scientific themes and approaches. For example, serious gaming can enable them to learn about scientific developments in an entertaining fashion. They can follow the basic approaches of citizen science and observe, measure and evaluate data themselves. In science slams, young scientists present their research projects. More established forms of scientific education such as public talks and lecture series flow into an exhibition programme that is constantly being updated. The Humboldt-Labor's "laboratory character" comes from its focus on scientific research processes and acquiring knowledge. Scientists weigh, measure and evaluate in every scientific discipline. But how, for example, can the subjective perception of stress in everyday urban life be qualitatively measured? How do

we deal with mistakes, deviations and inconsistencies, or with standardizing measuring practices? Such questions are also relevant when it comes to the Humboldt Forum's exhibition programme.

A network hub to the world

When the HU's sound archive is moved to the Humboldt Forum, along with the phonogram archive of the Ethnologisches Museum of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, it will introduce an acoustic dimension and highlight the important diversity of language. Here, too, the contents of the collections will be interpreted in cooperation with representatives of their societies of origin. The sound archive is a network hub that extends not only out into the world but also into other areas of the Forum, such as the Berlin Exhibition, the Ethnologisches Museum's listening space or the sound workshop on first-floor mezzanine.

When the **Humboldt Forum** opens its doors in late 2019 it will mark the establishment of a whole new cultural quarter in the very heart of Berlin. 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 with Stadtmuseum Berlin, and the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, with the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss taking on a leading role. With its diverse programme of exhibitions, discussions, performances, workshops, films and artistic interventions, the Humboldt Forum has already developed a highly visible presence throughout Berlin.

More information can be found at humboldtforum.com.

Comments on the Future Humboldt-Labor

Sabine Kunst, president of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

The Humboldt-Labor will open up some wonderful opportunities for science in Berlin. It will be a place where we fulfil our social responsibilities and communicate scientific research to the public in an easily digestible fashion. It is a great stroke of luck that the Humboldt-Universität is to play a role in the Humboldt Forum. We couldn't imagine a more beautiful showcase for our outstanding scientists. Moreover, we are delighted that we will be able to present our passion for science to a large and diverse audience – in the Humboldt-Labor and in cooperation with the other actors in the Humboldt Forum.

Neil MacGregor, head of the Steering Committee at the Humboldt Forum

In the Humboldt-Labor, the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin will be “publishing” its findings in the truest sense of the word. It will share its questions, its findings and its enthusiasm with a wide audience and with the other actors at the Humboldt Forum. The increasing intensity of the interplay in the Humboldt Forum between the sciences, the public, the collections and the arts is precisely what will transform this building into a truly innovative institution. That's something we're all looking forward to!

Lavinia Frey, chief culture officer for the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss

Which public cultural institution is privileged to count a university among its driving forces? You've guessed correctly – the constellation of actors at the Humboldt Forum is unique the world over! As chief culture officer at the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss, now that the building is visibly nearing its completion I am particularly pleased that the Humboldt-Labor is also presenting its ideas for the Humboldt Forum. This is a place where science will be communicated to a wide audience and a truly encyclopaedic wealth of content will be made accessible. The Stiftung Humboldt Forum is looking forward to the Humboldt-Labor with a great deal of enthusiasm and curiosity!

Additional information available at:

kulturtechnik.hu-berlin.de/en/hzk/humboldt-lab/
humboldtforum.com

Organizers Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss

Live streaming of the event:

youtube.com/watch?v=b3kflvrowgA&feature=youtu.be

Brochure The Humboldt-Labor: Science in Motion, Thoughts and Approaches, November 2017.

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