

21 September, 2021



Portrait: New Vice President for Academic Affairs

On 1 October, Niels Pinkwart will take up the post of Vice President for Academic Affairs. He replaces Eva Inés Obergfell, who will in future devote more time to her research and teaching activities. After three semesters in online mode, students and faculties will return to campus for the winter semester. In preparation for his new position, Niels Pinkwart has held many talks at faculties, institutes and central institutions over the past few months. The Professor of Didactics of Computer Science/Informatics and Society is looking forward to using his expertise to advance the university, especially in terms of the digitization of teaching.

[Read portrait of Niels Pinkwart](#)

Discussion: Amendment with consequences

On 2 September, the Berlin House of Representatives passed the "Law to Strengthen Science in Berlin". The response from universities has been mixed. When the amendment comes into effect, postdocs, junior professors and university lecturers will in principle be entitled to permanent employment. In the Academic Senate, the additional financial costs amounting to millions of euros were discussed. In addition, the structural changes associated with the change also call for creative solutions.

[Read article about postdoc regulation](#)

New series of events: Focus on blended learning

At the HU Forum Online Teaching, teachers can gain an overview of the various methods and media of "blended learning" and learn about the design of formats. Starting in November, the knowledge gained can be deepened in topic-specific micro-trainings. The series is organized by the Career Center & Scientific Continuing Education and starts with a virtual kick-off event on

- 23 September and
- 18 October (repeat).

Direct exchange of materials and information will be organized via a dedicated Moodle course. All interested parties can register in advance for the Moodle course.

[Further Information on the Intranet](#)

Call for proposals: Time for exchange with society

The funding line Open Humboldt Freiräume supports scientists and scholars of all disciplines at HU to find time for dialogue with society. They can apply for a reduction of their teaching load to 0 SWS if they develop projects in the field of Knowledge Exchange and Science Communication. Funding for the exchange of science and society allows for a teaching substitute for the duration of the summer semester 2022 or winter semester 2022/23. The application deadline is November 1.

[Find information about Freiräume call for applications and examples of grantees](#)

Cooperation: Seed funding call with the University of Zurich

Humboldt-Universität and the University of Zurich, which are linked by a strategic partnership, are once again inviting applications for funding for bilateral projects. Applications for joint research projects can be submitted until 31 October. In the long term, the aim is to establish joint overarching research topics and sustainable research structures.

[Find Further information](#)

Funding: "Innovative women in focus"

To promote equality in science, research and innovation, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research has created the funding guideline "Innovative Women in Focus." Funding is provided for research projects and implementation measures that make women in science, research and innovation more visible as high performers and/or known as role models.

[Learn more about funding on the intranet](#)

Call for proposals: Blankensee Colloquia

The Blankensee Colloquia are small international conferences or workshops with about 20 participants on an innovative topic in the humanities and social sciences. Young scholars from Berlin and Brandenburg can apply to host a Blankensee Colloquium. The deadline for applications is 12 October.

[Learn more about the Blankensee Colloquia on the intranet](#)

Administration & Service

Video: "Friday after one ..." with Joan Vilain and Neda Soltani

Yoan Vilain, Presidential Officer for International Affairs and Europe, and Neda Soltani, Officer in the International Affairs Department, present HU's activities for researchers who have fled or are at risk in their countries of origin. From 3 to 24 September, the exhibition "Standing for Freedom / Poser pour la liberté" in the atrium of HU's main building will show what it means to be a scientist: to have to leave your own country.

Humboldt University employees can sign up for organized tours with curator Pascale

Laborier.

[Watch video on intranet / sign up for guided tour](#)

Apply: Call for applications of the Family Fund

Starting 27 September, it will once again be possible to apply for funds from the Family Fund. The funds can be used for temporary personnel measures and final scholarships as well as for material costs. Possible uses include subsidies for childcare for stays abroad or final scholarships for academically outstanding doctoral and post-doctoral students of the HU. Applications can be submitted until 24 October.

[Further information will be available on the intranet from 27 September](#)

Reopening: Parent-Child-Room opens on 4 October

Employees and students can use the parent-child rooms again from October 4. Here, too, hygiene measures must be observed. In advance, the rooms will be equipped with surface disinfection wipes (which are also used in daycare centers), and in addition, the family rooms will be cleaned every working day. To minimize the risk of contamination, all toys, books, pillows, blankets, etc. are removed before opening. Parent-child rooms may be used at the same time only by persons of one household or a designated caregiver.

[Detailed information will follow on the intranet starting October 4](#)

Language: The gender colon as a barrier-free recommendation

HU's guide to gender-inclusive language provides practical guidance on how to implement inclusive language in everyday university life. The guide was discussed in the Academic Senate in 2019 and its use was recommended to all HU employees. Because language is alive, there must be room for additions and updates: Currently around the gender colon. The colon is particularly well suited for use in digital formats because, unlike the asterisk, it has the advantage of being easier to read in speech output programs.

[Learn more about gender-equitable communication on the intranet](#)

Electronic invoices: Answers to frequently asked questions

Since 15 September, disbursement orders on yellow paper - affectionately known as Gelblinge - have been a thing of the past at HU. The process now runs completely digitally in SAP, from invoice entry to payment. Employees can find answers to frequently asked questions about the introduction of central electronic invoice receipt in the intranet workspace "SAP: Help & Documentation".

[FAQ: Frequently asked questions and answers](#)

[Factsheet: Old & new processes in comparison](#)

Berlin University Alliance

Conference: (In)Credible Research 2021 - Science and Communication

On the 7th and 8th of October, the interdisciplinary e-conference on "Good Science" will take place, which had its successful premiere last year. This year's theme, "Science and Communication," will feature numerous presentations, discussions, and interactive workshops on topics such as science and communication, mental health, science in social media, reproducibility, and more. PhD students and postdocs from all disciplines are cordially invited.

[More information about the conference can be found](#)

Personalia

Honor: Tractatus Prize for Christoph Möllers

Christoph Möllers, Professor of Public Law and Philosophy of Law, has been honored with the 2021 Tractatus Prize. The award is for "Degrees of Freedom. Elements of a Liberal Political Mechanics" - a collection of 349 essayistic short chapters that open up new perspectives on liberalism, freedom and political practice. "In 349 short mini-essays linked by references, Möllers develops a mosaic of freedom that could not be thought of as clearer and yet more dazzling in its diversity," reads the citation for the award.

Outstanding dissertation: Wladimir Köppen Prize for physicist

Jan Nitzbon received his doctorate with distinction in geography from Humboldt University under Julia Boike. The Physicist received the 2020 Wladimir Köppen Award for his excellent doctoral thesis, which focused on refining simulations of permafrost development. Nitzbon shows how significant small-scale properties of the landscape are, as they influence the amount of climate gases released during thawing. As a result of his research, processes of permafrost thawing can be mapped more realistically in the future.

Award: Balzan Prize 2021 for HU honorary professor

Alessandra Buonanno, Director of the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics and Honorary Professor at HU's Institute of Physics, was awarded the Balzan Prize together with Thibault Damour. It is endowed with 750,000 Swiss francs. The two researchers are honored for their leading role in the prediction of gravitational wave signals. The signals arise when compact objects such as neutron stars and black holes move together in a spiral and eventually merge.

In the Media

Tagesspiegel: High Corona vaccination rates at universities

Over 80 percent of Berlin students vaccinated. This was the result of a survey by the state conference of rectors and presidents of Berlin's universities.

[Read article about vaccination rates](#)

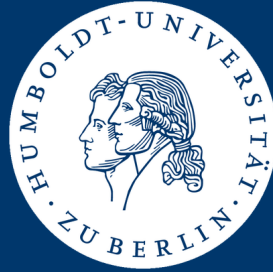
rbb24: "Standing For Freedom"

The Humboldt University is currently hosting an exhibition that traces the lives of researchers in exile in France.

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Photo: Jan Kopankiewicz

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