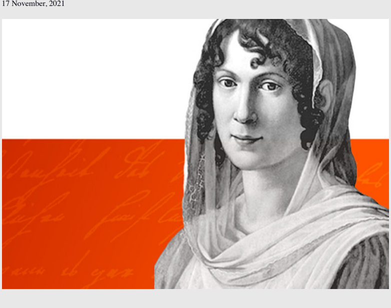
HUMBOLDT
INFO
17 November, 2021



Tip of the day: Award ceremony of the Caroline von Humboldt Professorship

The literary scholar Ethel Matala de Mazza will receive the Caroline von Humboldt Professorship on 17 November (see also portrait below). The award, endowed with 80,000 euros, is given by Humboldt-Universität to promote outstanding female academics. The Caroline Humboldt Award goes to Johanna Mugler, postdoc at the Institute of Social Anthropology at the University of Bern. It is awarded annually to an excellent young female scientist for her outstanding research and is endowed with 15,000 euros (see also portrait below). The award ceremony will take place at 6 pm in a hybrid event in the Senate Hall and via livestream. It will be opened by HU President Sabine Kunst. The keynote speech will be given by Edelgard Bulmahn, Chair of the HU Board of Trustees.

Go to registration and livestream

Video: "Freitag nach eins..." with Ursula Fuhrich-Grubert

In the current "Freitag nach eins...", the Central Women's Representative Ursula Fuhrich-Grubert invites you to the award ceremony and informs you about the Caroline von Humboldt Programme for Equal Opportunities for Women at Humboldt-Universität.

Watch the video with the Women's Representative

Administration & Service

Leadership: Election of the President on 15 February 2022

The HU Board of Trustees is setting up a search committee to prepare election proposals for the election of a new President. By 24 January, the Board of Trustees will submit an election proposal to the Council. The hearing of the candidate is scheduled for 8 February, the election of the new president by the HU Council will take place on 15 February. HU President Sabine Kunst announced her resignation at the end of the year four weeks ago. The Humboldt University Council decided on 16 November to call a special meeting at short notice next week to decide on interim leadership for Humboldt University. The Board of Trustees will submit a corresponding proposal to the Council.

View election announcement

Further information on the debate about the Berlin Higher Education Act

Pandemic: Adjustments to events necessary

With the rapid increase in the number of infections, further adjustments and additions to the measures to combat the pandemic are once again coming to the fore. On 10 November, the Berlin Senate decided on new measures that will be taken up in the coming days in a new instruction. As usual, staff members will be informed about this by their managers and via our website. As long as it is possible, taking into account the infection situation, students and staff should be able to teach, research and work in presence. The great interest in special offers of the mobile vaccination campaign and the high percentage of vaccinated members of the University encourage all those involved to continue to pursue this goal with creativity and a sense of responsibility.

However, some adjustments will be necessary in the coming week due to the very dynamic infection situation, which we would like to point out to you in advance: According to the valid Infection Protection Ordinance of the State of Berlin, the 3G rule applies to students and all teaching-related events. It also applies to events that serve the exercise of legally prescribed co-determination and participation rights. The elected employee representatives regulate the protective and hygienic measures applicable during their meetings on their own responsibility. For other events such as honours, panel discussions, etc. in closed rooms with more than 20 people present at the same time, the 2G rule will apply from 22 November.

Employees of the HU organise their work by making use of all flexibilisation options and can agree individual home office regulations with their supervisors. In addition, the service agreement on mobile working will be published in due course.

All university employees are asked to apply the known hygiene rules at all times, to stay away from campus if they have cold symptoms and to make use of the offers for testing.

Questions and answers about the pandemic

Preparation: New campus management system planned

The University is planning to introduce the new campus management system HISinOne. The project group headed by Steffan Baron, Head of Studies, is currently discussing how the introduction project should be organised. In the interview, Baron reports on why a new system is necessary, what it means for staff and how long the introduction can take.

Read interview with Steffan Baron

Order now: HU New Year Cards 2022 via Print on Demand

Select, order, pick up and send: Together with the in-house print shop, the Department of Communication, Marketing and Event Management is offering the printing of New Year's cards for all HU institutions again this year. Print orders for New Year's post are accepted until 10 December.

Go to motif and order form

§ Section 110 BerlHG: Transitional regulations for junior researchers extended

Continuing the transitional arrangements already made in September, the university management has extended the options for regulating hiring and continued employment until a decision is made on the future strategy for postdoctoral employment.

View measures

Filing: The archive is again accepting files after registration

It is once again possible to hand in relevant files from all file-creating offices of the University. However, the archive can only coordinate this after prior registration and agreement. The archive team therefore asks you not to send any files unannounced.

Learn more about file acceptance

Professional development: current offers now also available via newsletter

"Leading Teams with a Special History", "Presenting Effectively" and "For All Those Who Would Like to Be Appreciated" are three of many offers that the HU's Professional Development Department has on offer in December. The section now also offers an electronic newsletter to subscribe to, informing those interested about the monthly changing offers.

View offers, subscribe to the BWB newsletter

Research & Teaching

Portrait: Ethel Matala de Mazza appreciates small forms

The professor of modern German literature is not a literary scholar who is only interested in the great works. Her passion is for small forms. She has been researching the modern biodiversity of these text types for a long time and with an interdisciplinary eye. "Many people don't even suspect that these small forms between journalism and literature, as part of modern mass culture, have also co-written a piece of democratic history," says the newly-appointed Caroline von Humbodt-Professor, who wants to invest her prize money in further research on small forms.

Read portrait on Ethel Matala

Insight: Johanna Mugler looks over the shoulders of others

To arrive at research results, Johanna Mugler, a postdoc at the University of Bern, watches people at work and interviews them - for example South African prosecutors or international tax experts. The insights gained in this way flow into her anthropological research on topics of modern statehood such as taxation, (supra)national redistribution and digital intellectual property. On the latter, as a Caroline von Humboldt Award winner, she will conduct the "iFrontiers" project together with the HU lawyer Philipp Dann.

Read portrait of Johanna Mugler

"Forum Young Top Research": Two HU Projects Honoured

The topic of energy supply of the future was the focus of this year's science competition "Forum Junge Spitzenforschung". Two projects by HU researchers received awards in November: The project "Gas-assisted drying chamber" by Edgar Nandayapa Bermudez and Florian Mathies came in third place, which was endowed with 6000 euros. "Scalable solventless production of nanoparticles" by Katherine Mazzio, PhD, and Barış Akduman took fourth place. Once a year, the Stiftung Industrieforschung and Humboldt Innovation GmbH, together with the Berlin universities, search for young scientists with original and practically relevant ideas and approaches from basic research. A total of six teams were awarded for their application ideas from innovative basic research.

Learn more about the projects

Erasmus+: New call for group mobility

The new generation of Erasmus+ programmes 2021-2027 will support short and intensive teaching and research activities that offer students, doctoral candidates and university staff the possibility of physical group mobility (5-30 days) combined with a virtual phase. As a result, the Erasmus+ Programme now offers a funding opportunity for intensive programmes, summer and winter schools and other short-term programmes with selected partners.

View call for proposals

Apply: Roman Herzog Research Award Social Market Economy

The Roman Herzog Research Prize Social Market Economy 2022 of the Institute of the same name is aimed at young academics whose dissertation or post-doctoral thesis deals with the future viability of the social market economy and thus with the central regulatory issues of the 21st century. The prize is endowed with a total of 35,000 euros. The deadline for applications is 31 December.

Learn more about the Roman Herzog Research Award

Final spurt: Apply for Elsa Neumann doctoral scholarships

Twice a year, the State of Berlin awards Elsa Neumann Doctoral Scholarships and Doctoral Graduation Scholarships to particularly qualified young researchers. The current application deadline is 19 November, 12 noon (cut-off time) for funding to begin on 1 April, 2021.

Found detailed information on the Elsa Neumann Fellowship

For outstanding dissertations: Study Award of the Körber Foundation

Doctoral candidates from all disciplines who complete their dissertation with magna or summa cum laude in 2021 can apply for the German Study Prize of the Körber Foundation until 1 March 2022. Prizes worth a total of over 100,000 euros are awarded annually in the social sciences, the natural and technical sciences, and the humanities and cultural studies.

Learn more about the study prize

Berlin University Alliance

Interactive: Research atlas on "Social Cohesion" is online

The interactive website is part of the Grand Challenge Initiative "Social Cohesion" and visualises Berlin research projects on the topic of social cohesion, thus identifying ongoing research activities as well as research needs. With the help of the research atlas, current scientific priorities, social issues and new interfaces become visible.

View interactive research atlas

Funding: Deepening Cooperation with the Global South

The Berlin Center for Global Engagement invites applications for funding for research projects that strengthen structures for cooperation with and in the Global South, science diplomacy or scientific freedom. Funding is available for projects that aim to thematically deepen, network and consolidate existing collaborations and initiate scientific debates in the public sphere. The deadline for applications for the "Signature Projects" is 1 February, 2022.

Read call for applications

Personalia

Award: Mira Sievers receives science prize

Mira Sievers, Professor at the Berlin Institute of Islamic Theology, has been awarded the Young Scientist Prize of the Berlin Science Prize 2021. With this prize, the Governing Mayor of Berlin recognises particularly innovative research approaches in a Berlin field of the future. As a theologian, Mira Sievers focuses on questions of the islamic foundations of faith and ethics. The award ceremony for the young scientist prize, which is endowed with 10,000 euros, took place during the Berlin Science Week.

Learn more about Mira Sievers

Honour: Beate Wonde receives Order of the Japanese Government

Beate Wonde, the former deputy director and curator of the HU Mori-Ôgai Memorial, has been awarded the "Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays" by the Japanese government for her many years of commitment to the memorial. The Order is awarded for exceptional service in the civilian or military field. Previous recipients of the Order include academics, diplomats, military officers and politicians who have made a significant contribution to Japanese culture and society.

Legal Department: long-time staff member retires

The long-time senior staff member of the Legal Department office, Gabriele Schulz, retired in September. She started in the then Legal Office in April 1990 and remained with it until the end, almost 33 years. "She had heart and proved it - but was also able to steadfastly assert the interests of the later legal department when necessary," writes Thomas Eschke, head of the legal department.

Read full text

In den Medien

DIE ZEIT: Excellence in danger

Why I am resigning as president of Berlin's Humboldt University. A guest article by Sabine Kunst

Read article by Sabine Kunst

DIE ZEIT: This law will make the university even more excellent

Berlin's new higher education law opens up new perspectives for doctoral students - but old privileges must be abolished. A guest article by Jule Specht.

Read guest article by Jule Specht

Tagesspiegel: New Berlin Higher Education Act is a Label Swindle

The red-red-green Higher Education Act contradicts sustainable science policy. It confronts the universities with unsolvable tasks, writes Adrian Grasse, science expert of the CDU parliamentary group in the House of Representatives.

Read article

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Graphic: Patrick Weseloh

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Unter den Linden 6
10099 Berlin
Deutschland

E-Mail: interne-kommunikation@hu-berlin.de

www.hu-berlin.de

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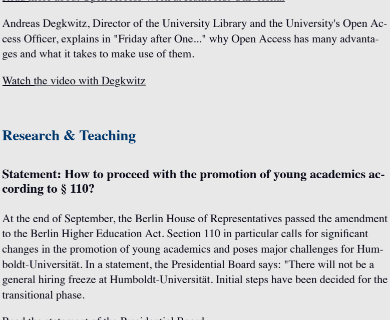

Open Access Week: Coffee Lectures, Workshops and Prizes

From 25 to 31 October, the international Open Access Week will take place under the motto "It Matters How We Open Knowledge: Building Structural Equity". Libraries, researchers and other stakeholders are offering a diverse programme. Everything takes place digitally. Humboldt-Universität will be taking part: the university library will be offering coffee lectures on the basics of Open Access. Interested parties can get advice on publishing in Open Access during thematically open consultation hours. Two thematic workshops offer more in-depth insights. In addition, the winners of Humboldt-Universität's first Open Access Award will be honoured.

Read more about Open Access Week at Humboldt-Universität

Andreas Degkwitz, Director of the University Library and the University's Open Access Officer, explains in "Friday after One..." why Open Access has many advantages and what it takes to make use of them.

Watch the video with Degkwitz

Research & Teaching

Statement: How to proceed with the promotion of young academics according to § 110?

At the end of September, the Berlin House of Representatives passed the amendment to the Berlin Higher Education Act. Section 110 in particular calls for significant changes in the promotion of young academics and poses major challenges for Humboldt-Universität. In a statement, the Presidential Board says: "There will not be a general hiring freeze at Humboldt-Universität. Initial steps have been decided for the transitional phase.

Read the statement of the Presidential Board

Finally present again: many students at the enrolment ceremony

On 18 October, the festive matriculation ceremony for the winter semester 2021/2022 took place in an autumnal atmosphere on the North Campus. There was a large crowd at the ceremony as well as at the information market. Not only first-year students were present, but also some third-year students who did not have an enrolment ceremony due to the pandemic. The keynote speech was given by Guilia Silberberger (Der goldene Aluhut).

View picture gallery

At a glance: The research report for the years 2012 to 2018 is here

The research report of the Service Centre for Research, which has been published in a new look, contains information on over 3000 research projects at HU and the development of third-party funding. It pays special attention to the Collaborative Research Centres and the projects of the Excellence Initiative, which are presented in a clearly arranged compact overview. In future, the research report will be published regularly every two years and will then offer more space for detailed descriptions of individual research projects and research personalities as well as non-third-party funded research lines.

Download digital version of the research report

Request print version by e-mail: szf-hotline@hu-berlin.de

Zoom & BigBlueButton: Agreement on the use of video software

For the time being, Zoom can continue to be used for teaching courses, continuing education courses, training events and online sports courses until 31 March 2023. Christoph Schneider, Vice President for Research, and the General Staff Council, led by René Pawlak, have agreed on this. Tools such as BigBlueButton are to be used for interviews with a special need for protection according to the "DSGVO". For job interviews, Zoom also works: everyone must agree, full end-to-end-encryption is mandatory.

Read more about the agreement

Apply now: Funding for Israeli-German research projects

Projects of up to four years with a maximum annual budget of 200,000 euros are funded by the German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development (GIF) in two funding lines (Collaborative Track & Young Investigators Track). German and Israeli scientists with the focus topics "Life Sciences interfaces" or "Social justice and human rights" can apply until 15 December.

Learn more about the GIF call for proposals

Marga Faulstich Programme: Developing Your Own Business Ideas

Female scientists and students at HU have until 16 January 2022 to apply to participate in the Marga Faulstich Programme. Participants will be supported through mentoring, workshops, advice and networking to further develop their innovative business ideas and work them up to market maturity.

Apply for the programme

Berlin Science Week 2021: Of art and social change

This year, Berlin Science Week will take place from 1 to 10 November and HU researchers will be taking part. Among other things, Humboldt-Universität researchers will explore the ambivalent interactions between culture, science and politics. The events will take place in the main building of the HU, in the Humboldt Labor in the Humboldt Forum and in the Tieranatomisches Theater. Admission is free, registration is required.

Go to the programme of the Berlin Science Week

Administration & Service

New face: Felicitas Hentschke is new in the International Affairs Department

Humboldt-Universität is connected with partner universities all over the world. These cooperations are maintained and made useful and visible for researchers by, among others, Department IV "International and European Academic Cooperation, Profile Partnerships and Strategic Development" in the International Affairs Division. Dr Felicitas Hentschke has led the team since 1 October. She wants to expand the strategic partnerships with African universities. She talks about these and other plans in the interview.

Read interview with Felicitas Hentschke

Portrait: "For a (digital) coffee with..." with Yoan Vilain

When Yoan Vilain travelled to Berlin with his family during the school holidays in August 1990, he walked breathlessly and in amazement through the German metropolis and felt, that his life's theme lay before him here: Different worlds that can brought together. Today, he is the Presidential Commissioner for International Affairs and Europe and the man who brings everyone together: Germany and France, faculties and headquarters, national and international researchers.

Read portrait about Yoan Vilain

Pandemic: Two Corona tests per week free of charge for employees

Since 11 October, many citizens have to pay for Corona tests. However, employees of the HU can continue to be tested twice a week free of charge at the test centres in Mitte and Adlershof. For the time being, registration takes place on site and no longer via the ticket system of the test provider, which has been changed to fee-based testing. Employees are asked to go directly to one of the test centres. Some documents have to be filled out there, which may take some time.

View test centre locations and opening hours

Please note: Deadlines for submission of purchase requisitions

The Central Procurement Office asks that the deadlines for the submission of purchase requisitions at the end of the year be observed in accordance with the overview. Purchase requisitions received after these deadlines will be processed according to available capacity. An order can then no longer be guaranteed this year.

View deadline for purchase requisitions

Breaking out the courage: Workshop against sexualised harassment and violence

The Office of the Central Women's Representative is offering the workshop "Breakout of Courage - Standing Strong Against Sexualised Harassment and Violence" on Saturday, 13 November, 11 am to 2.30 pm. The aim of the workshop is to prevent certain forms of sexualised harassment from happening in the first place through self-confident behaviour. Registration is possible until 7 November: caroline.kunert@hu-berlin.de

Read details about the workshop

In-house print shop: print teaching materials and more free of charge

After one and a half years of digital teaching, the University is officially opening its doors for teaching again: the winter semester starts with many face-to-face events. Paper teaching materials are being used more frequently again. The in-house print shop is available for all printing matters. The service provided by the Technical Department is generally free of charge.

Overview of the services offered by the in-house print shop

Berlin University Alliance

Focus on quantum technology: "Berlin Quantum Alliance"

Berlin is to become a hotspot for the research and development of quantum technologies. To this end, the new "Berlin Quantum Alliance" wants to bundle the competencies of universities and research institutes and develop joint initiatives with Berlin's business community. The aim of the Alliance is to sustainably expand existing competencies in quantum technology with the help of state funding of 25 million euros.

Focus on quantum technology: Berlin Quantum Alliance

Personalia

Three in one stroke: junior researcher receives three awards

Within just four weeks, Dr Susanne Schmidt, a research assistant in the History of Science Department, has received three awards. She was awarded this year's sponsorship prize of the Society for the History of Science, Medicine and Technology. At the same time, Susanne Schmidt was also awarded the Article Prize of the NTM - Zeitschrift für Geschichte der Wissenschaften, Technik und Medizin (Journal for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine) and a Career Development Award from the Berlin University Alliance.

Learn more about Susanne Schmidt's successes

Honour: Joachim Sauer Member of IAQMS

Joachim Sauer, Senior Researcher at the Institute of Chemistry, has been elected as a member of the International Academy of Quantum Molecular Science (IAQMS), a scientific society for quantum chemistry based in France. Members included pioneers of quantum chemistry such as Fock, Roothaan, Pople as well as the HU honorary doctor Reinhart Ahlrichs, who died in 2016.

Obituary: Former HU Chancellor Rainer Neumann has died

The University mourns the death of Rainer Neumann: the Chancellor, who helped steer the fortunes of Humboldt-Universität in the 1990s, has passed away. "Rainer Neumann was more than a good head of administration. He had a feeling for what university is, universitas litterarum, he knew about the freedom and space for creativity, experimentation and exchange that science needs," remembers the lawyer and author Bernhard Schlink.

Read Horst Bredekamp's obituary and other voices of companions

In den Medien

Tagesspiegel: Wonder!

"After Nature", an exhibition at the Humboldt Forum, explores the complex relationships between humans, research and the environment.

Read article about Humboldt Lab

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Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Unter den Linden 6
10099 Berlin
Deutschland

E-Mail: interne-kommunikation@hu-berlin.de

www.hu-berlin.de