

Alexander von Humboldt: From the Americas to the Cosmos

Conference Program

Thursday, October 14, 2004

3:00-9:00 p.m. Registration

Elebash Recital Hall Lobby

4:00-5:00 p.m. Humboldtian Legacies Plenary: From the Americas to Global Nature

Elebash Recital Hall

Moderator: TBA

- José Sarukhán, *Former Rector, UNAM (Mexico)*
- Steven E Sanderson, *President and CEO, Wildlife Conservation Society**

5:15-5:45 p.m. Welcoming remarks

Elebash Recital Hall

5:45-6:30 p.m. Keynote – Humboldt and the Idea of Liberty: On Humboldt's Modernity in the Twenty-first Century

Elebash Recital Hall

- Manfred Osten, *Secretary-General of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (ret.), Diplomat and author*

6:30-7:00 p.m. "Wide World"

Elebash Recital Hall

Theatrical performance based on the meeting of Alexander von Humboldt and Thomas Jefferson, by playwright Lauren Gunderson and Break A Leg Productions

7:00-9:00 p.m. Reception

Elebash Recital Hall Lobby

Friday, October 15

8:30-5:00 pm Registration

Skylight Conference Room, 9th Floor

9:00-10:30 Concurrent Sessions

Track A – Culture and Society in the New World

Session I: The Old World Meets the New

Room 9204

Moderator: TBA

- **Humboldt, Mexico y Estados Unidos**
Jaime Labastida, *Siglo XXI Editores*
- **The Spanish José María Blanco White and Alexander**

von Humboldt, and the Catholic Enlightenment

José Gabriel Brauchy, *New York University*

- **Alexander von Humboldt's Romantic Encounter with Latin America: The Roots of Appreciating Difference**

Elizabeth Millán-Zaibert, *DePaul University*

- **Alexander von Humboldt y la Ilustración en Quito**

E.-S. Moreno-Yañez, *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador*

Track B – Literature and the Arts

Session I: Humboldt and the Arts (a)

Room 9205

Moderator: TBA

- **Humboldt as Art Collector**

Eloise Quiñones Keber, *The Graduate Center and Baruch College*

- **Actual Size: Frederic Edwin Church and The Visual Legacy of Alexander von Humboldt**

Eddie Rollins, *Auburn University*

- **Frederic Church's Cayambe, Humboldt's Nues des Cordillères, and the Dialectics of a Trans-geographical America**

Katherine Manthorne, *The Graduate Center, City University of New York*

- **Landscape Painting Between Science and Art: Goethe, Hackert, Humboldt**

Claudia Mattos, *Universidade Estadual de Campinas*

Track C – Life and Travels

Session I: Partners

Room 9206

Moderator: TBA

- **Alexander von Humboldt's Correspondence with two American diplomats: David B. Warden and Johann G. Flügel**

Ingo Schwarz, *Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences*

- **Caldas's Encounter with Humboldt and Bonpland: Anticipation, Interaction and Legacy**

John Appel, *independent, Popayán, Colombia*

- **Amie Bonpland and Alexander von Humboldt after 1817: reflections on a shared enterprise**

Stephen Bell, *University of California at Los Angeles*

- **Alexander von Humboldt, M. F. Maury and the Gulf Stream**

Gerhard Kortum, *Kiel University*

Track D – Knowledge and Worldview

Session I: The Humboldtian Worldview (a)

Room 9207

Moderator: TBA

- **The Humboldtian Cosmos: Views of World Cultures**
Ottmar Ette, *University of Potsdam*
- **Humboldt's Vision of South America and the Influence of Eighteenth-Century European Scientists**
Blenda Femenias, *Brown University*
- **Cosmos and Empire, or Subversive Science: Humboldt's View of Nature and the Expansion of Capitalism**
Jorge Marcone, *Williams College*
- **Humboldt's Economic Thinking**
Emmanuel Saadia, *The University of Chicago**

11:00-12:30 Concurrent Sessions

Track A – Culture and Society in the New World

Session II: Peoples and Places

Room 9204

Moderator: TBA

- **Translating Humboldt: William Bullock's 1824 Exhibition of Aztec Antiquities**
Robert Aguirre, *Wayne State University*
- **Colonial Landscape: Humboldt and the National Imagination in New Granada**
Margarita Serje, *Universidad de los Andes*
- **Arrogance and Squalor: Lima's Elite at the Time of Alexander von Humboldt's Visit to Peru**
Paul Rizo-Patrón, *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú*
- **Humboldt y la Arquitectura Inca**
Cesar Astuhuaman, *University of London and San Marcos State University*
- **Humboldt's Travels (1801-1802) in the Tawantinsuyu on Cieza de Leon's Footsteps (1540-1550)**
David Yudilevich, *Universidad de Chile*

Track B – Literature and the Arts

Session II: Humboldt and the Arts (b)

Room 9205

Moderator: TBA

- **Humboldt: New Sites and Sounds**
Adrienne Klein, *The Graduate Center*
- **Alexander von Humboldt and the Visual Arts in America**
Amy Winter, *Godwin-Ternbach Museum, Queens College*
- **Humboldt and the European Stage: Depictions of South America**

Alicia Lubowski, *New York University*

- **America and the Moon: Haydn's Il mondo della luna as a Metaphor of the American Revolution**
Pierpaolo Polzonetti, *University of North Carolina, Greensboro*

Track C – Life and Travels

Session II: Legacy

Room 9206

Moderator: TBA

- **A French perspective on Humboldt's multiple activities**
Pierre Laszlo, *University of Liège*
- **Alexander von Humboldt und Spanien im 19. Jahrhundert: Analyse der reziproken Wahrnehmung**
Sandra Rebok, *Spanish Council for Scientific Research*
- **Teobart Maler: Humboldt's Legacy in Mexico**
Claudine Leysinger, *Columbia University*
- **Recording Civilization: Humboldt, Bolivia and France**
Georgia de Havenon, *Queens College*

Track D – Knowledge and Worldview

Session II: Geography and Place

Room 9207

Moderator: TBA

- **Alexander von Humboldt's Image and Influence in North American Geography 1804-2004**
Kent Mathewson, *Louisiana State University*
- **Humboldt and the Nuances of Cartography**
Angela Perez, *Brandeis University*
- **A Thousand Miles of Curses and Jammed Propellers: The Impact of Humboldt's Legacies on African Aquatic Environment**
Jeremiah Kitunda, *University of Wisconsin*
- **Alexander von Humboldt as a pioneer of Western North American Tectonics**
Anke Friedrich, *University of Potsdam**

12:30-1:30 Lunch

1:30-3:00 Concurrent Sessions

Track A – Culture and Society in the New World

Session III: Cuba

Room 9204

Moderator: TBA

- **Humboldt ante el "inexplicable" caos cubano**
Odette Casamayor Cisneros, *independent, Paris*
- **Humboldt and the Process of Nation Formation in Cuba**
Lourdes Gil, *Baruch College, City University of New York*
- **Cuba's Other State of Nature**

Stephanie Schwartz, *Columbia University*

- **Humboldt and Arango y Parreño: The Scientist and the Civilian Patrician - Alexander von Humboldt and Francisco Arango y Parreño, Science and Reformism in Cuba, 1800-1827**

Alfonso Quiroz, *The Graduate Center*

Track B – Literature and the Arts

Session III: Humboldt's Literary Legacy

Room 9205

Moderator: TBA

- **Mapping the Unknown: European Women Travelers in Humboldt's New World**
Adriana Méndez-Rodenas, *University of Iowa*
- **E.G. Squier and the Legacy of Alexander von Humboldt**
Sharon Hartman Strom, *University of Rhode Island*
- **Humboldt's Post-Jeffersonian Influences in America: The Case of Susan Fenimore Cooper**
Marcia Epstein Allentuck, *The Graduate Center and City College*
- **Exploring Humboldt's Orinoco Debts to Gumilla**
Margaret Ewalt, *Wake Forest University*

Track C – Life and Travels

Session III: Enduring Icon

Room 9206

Moderator: TBA

- **Inventing a Hero: Alexander von Humboldt as a Cultural Icon in Nineteenth Century Germany and United States**
Andreas Daum, *University of Buffalo (SUNY)*
- **Humboldt Philately**
Lyman Caswell, *independent, Seattle, Wash.*
- **The Humboldt Digital Library: A Global Information and Publication Network**
Frank Baron, *University of Kansas*
- **The Humboldt Digital Library: A Global Information and Publication Network**
Detlev Doherr, *Technical University of Offenburg*

Track D – Knowledge and Worldview

Session III: Botany

Room 9207

Moderator: TBA

- **Alexander von Humboldt and the rising of Plant Geography at the beginning of XIX century**
Alberto Castrillón Aldana, *Universidad Nacional de Colombia*
- **Orchidaceae Humboldtianae: The Orchids of Humboldt, Bonpland, and Kunth**
German Carnevali Fernandez-Concha, *Herbarium*

Centro de Investigacion Cientifica de Yucatan; Guenter Gerlach, Botanischer Garten Munchen-Nymphenburg; and Gustavo Romero-González, Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium.

- **From the Orinoco to the Amazonas: Flora Orinoci et Fluminis Nigri, Nova Genera et Species Plantarum, Tomus Septimus, 1825**

Gerardo Aymard, *Herbario Universitario (Venezuela)* and Gustavo Romero-González, *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium.*

- **Jean-Jacques Rousseau's Anticipation of Humboldt's Plant Geography**

Alexandra Cook, *University of Hong Kong*

3:30-5:00 Concurrent Sessions

Track A – Culture and Society in the New World

Session IV: The United States

Room 9207

Moderator: TBA

- **Knowledge in the Early Republic**
Donald Scott, *Queens College, City University of New York*
- **Humboldtian Celebrity in Antebellum American Society and Science, 1845-1859**
Michael Conlin, *Eastern Washington University*
- **Exploration and the American Public, 1800-1865**
Michael Robinson, *Central Connecticut State University*
- **Baron Alexander von Humboldt's Visit to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, June 15 through June 18, 1804**
James Kendig, *Pennsylvania State Hospital*

Track B – Literature and the Arts

Session IV: Language

Room 9205

Moderator: TBA

- **Oceans of Space: Alexander von Humboldt's 'Sublime' New World in Aspects of Nature**
Loisa Nygaard, *University of California, Santa Cruz*
- **Classic Nomenclature in New Exploring: Schoolcraft's Language with Links to Agassiz and Humboldt**
Donald Hassler, *Kent State University*
- **Palabras y pinceles alemanes en la descripción del paisaje venezolano**
José Angel Rodríguez, *Universidad Central de Venezuela*
- **Análisis Contrastivo de las Traducciones al Español de la Obra de Alejandro de Humboldt: Ensayo Político Sobre la Isla de Cuba (1827-2004)**
Maria-Rosario Martí Marco, *Universidad de Alicante*

Track C – Life and Travels

Session IV: Influencing Others

Room 9206

Moderator: TBA

- **Influences of Alexander von Humboldt's Kosmos in Swiss-America** Geohistorian Arnold Guyot's *Earth and Man*
Philip Wilson, *Pennsylvania State College of Medicine*
- **J.N. Reynolds: A Humboldtian Explorer in New York**
Aaron Sachs, *Cornell University*
- **Humboldt Intercedes with the Czar on behalf of a young Polish exile, launching Jan Witkiewicz on a career as an adventurer and diplomat that affects the course of Mid-Eastern History**
Daniel Gerould, *The Graduate Center, CUNY*
- **Humboldt-Bello: Influence of Alexander von Humboldt on Don Andres Bello's Articles Published in Biblioteca Americana (1823) and El Repertorio Americano (1826-1827)**
Alister Ramirez Marquez, *Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY*

Track D – Knowledge and Worldview

Session IV: Mining the New World

Room 9207

Moderator: TBA

- **Mexican Reception of Alexander von Humboldt's Political Essay on the Kingdom of New Spain**
Richard Weiner, *Indiana University-Purdue University*
- **Humboldt and the Mines**
Andre Wakefield, *Pitzer College, Claremont Colleges*
- **Humboldt and the mining activity in colonial Peru: the case of Hualgayoc**
Scarlett O'Phelan Godoy, *Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru*
- **Humboldt's Impact on Early French and British Investments in the Mexican Mining Bubble**
Ivani Vassoler, *State University of New York, Fredonia*

6:15-7:00 Humboldtian Legacies Plenary: Cosmos and World Cultures

Elebash Recital Hall

- Ottmar Ette, *University of Potsdam*

7:05-7:30 Alexander von Humboldt, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy and Musical Unity

Elebash Recital Hall

- R. Larry Todd, *Duke University*

7:30-8:00 Performance of the Cantata

Elebash Recital Hall

8:00-10:00 Reception, hosted by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (Bonn)

Dining Commons, eighth floor

Saturday, October 16

8:30 (ongoing) Registration

Skylight Conference Room

9:00-10:30 Concurrent Sessions

Track B – Literature and the Arts

Session VI: Reading Humboldt

Room 9204

Moderator: TBA

- **From Classicism to Postcolonialism: Alexander von Humboldt in Literature and Culture**
Rex Clark, *University of Kansas*
- **Under the influence of an exotic nature... national remembrances are insensibly effaced: Threats to the European Self in Humboldt's Personal**
Jason Lindquist, *Indiana University*
- **Exploration and Communication: Alexander von Humboldt in his Letters (1787-1804)**
Barbara Becker-Cantarino, *Ohio State University*
- **Sousândrade's trans-American Guesa errante: A 19th-century Brazilian reading of Humboldt's Voyage and Vues des cordillères et monuments des peuples indigènes de l'Amérique**
Odile Cisneros, *University of Alberta*
- **The World in a Notebook: Alexander von Humboldt's Unknown Italy**
Marie-Noelle Bourguet, *Universite Paris*

Track D – Knowledge and Worldview

Session V: The Humboldtian Worldview (b)

Room 9207

Moderator: TBA

- **An Early Environmental Scientist: Alexander von Humboldt's Ecological Explorations**
Dietland Müller-Schwarze, *State University of New York, Syracuse*
- **Scientific Instruments as an Extension of the Subject in Alexander von Humboldt's 'Cartas Americanas'**
Ann de Leon, *Johns Hopkins University*
- **Humboldt/Science/Cuba**
Ralph Leal, *Queens College*
- **The Sublime and the New World: Humboldt's Influence on Darwin**
Ann Colley, *State University of New York at Buffalo*

10:45-11:45 Humboldtian Legacies Plenary: Human Rights and International Cooperation

Elebash Recital Hall
TBA

12:00-1:30 Concurrent Sessions

Track B – Literature and the Arts

Session V: The Cosmos

Room 9205

Moderator: TBA

- **Alejandro de Humboldt, Científico y Poeta de la Naturaleza Americana**
Luisa Castillo, *Asociacion Cultural Humboldt (Venezuela)*
- **Humboldt's Cosmos and the Birth of Two Cultures**
Laura Dassow Walls, *University of South Carolina*
- **The man who was able to set precious stones**
Petra Gentz-Werner, *Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences*
- **La anécdota en Humboldt y Carpentier, configuraciones de lo real maravilloso**
Rocio Oviedo, *Universidad Complutense*

Track D – Knowledge and Worldview

Session VI: Humboldt and Human Rights

Room 9206

Moderator: TBA

- **Alexander von Humboldt y su Essai politique sur l'Île de Cuba: Antiguas y modernas formas de esclavitud**
Irene Prüfer Leske, *Universidad de Alicante*
- **The Political Humboldt**
Frank Holl, *University of Munich*
- **Gradations of Suffering and Privation: Alexander von Humboldt and the History of Cuban Slavery**
Evelyn Powell Jennings, *Saint Lawrence University*
- **Humboldt and Slavery**
Michael Zueske, *Universität Köln*

Track D – Knowledge and Worldview

Session VII: The Art of Science

Room 9207

Moderator: TBA

- **Afectos Científicos Italianos de Humboldt**
Marisa Vannini de Gerulwicz, *Universidad Central de Venezuela*
- **Writing Science: Humboldt's Ansichten der Natur**
Renata Schellenberg, *Mount Allison University*
- **Herschel, Humboldt and Imperial Science**
Chris Carter, *Duke University*
- **Speaking of Nature: the Art of Science in Alexander von Humboldt's 'Ansichten der Natur'**
David Kenosian, *Bryn Mawr College*