International Advisory Board of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

13. FORUM ZUR INTERNATIONALISIERUNG DER WISSENSCHAFT
13TH FORUM ON THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

The Power of (Academic) Networks
08 - 09 December 2019 Berlin

Alexander von Humboldt
Stiftung / Foundation

AGENDA

In today's increasingly globalized and interconnected world, networks are a common phenomenon. They can assume many different forms: professional networks or private networks, open networks and exclusive networks, personal networks and digital networks, etc. In the digital realm, almost everyone can connect to anybody by a single tap on a screen. In the real world, traditional face-to-face networks, sometimes with strict formal or informal rules on who can and who cannot join, continue to wield considerable influence. This can have both desirable and undesirable consequences.

Networks can function as powerful amplifiers by connecting individuals with similar values and ideas into a collective. In recent years, the rise of digital "social" networks has put a spotlight on the power of networks and has thus revealed the double-edged nature of this amplifying effect. It has been widely reported how the mechanisms governing social media platforms have both empowered hitherto suppressed voices but also helped increase societal polarization. Traditional networks, in academia and beyond, can also potentially facilitate ostracism and exert undue influence on dissenting voices.

So the question is how the amplifying effect of networks in general and of scholarly networks in particular can also be used productively. The case has been made that collaboration in academic networks increases the quality of research, not least because the diversity of views, backgrounds and capabilities enhances creativity. Access to resources and global scholarly discourses can become possible. Academic networks could also have the potential of creating leverage for promoting free and innovative thinking – leading to "better" science", but also giving protection and empowerment to individuals whose academic freedom is infringed. Could academic networks even be made productive for societal contexts?

The 13th Forum on the Internationalization of Sciences and Humanities will try to understand academic networks better, discuss the power of networks and explore how this power can be harnessed for the benefit of science and research as well as societies worldwide.

CORE QUESTIONS

1. What are (academic) networks? What distinguishes them from other professional networks? Why do academics join networks?

2. What effects do academic networks have and how do they create them?

3. How can we create inclusive networks that generate academic, and maybe also societal, benefits? What can funding organizations do to foster such networks?

Sunday, 08 December 2019	Ballroom	TITANIC Hotel Am Gendarmenmarkt

7:00 p.m. — **Welcome Dinner**

Welcome & Introduction
Hans-Christian Pape | President, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Dinner Speech
Antje Boëtius | Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research

Monday, 09 December 2019	Audimax	ESMT European School of Management and Technology

8:35 a.m. — *guided walk to location (meeting point: hotel lobby)*

9:15 a.m. — **13th Forum on the Internationalization of Sciences and Humanities**

Opening Remarks
Hans-Christian Pape | President, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
Ulrike Hahn | Chair, International Advisory Board

Keynote
Lada Adamic | Director, Computational Social Science, Facebook

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. — **Section I: Digital Networks**

Panel I: What attracts individuals to become members of digital networks? How can they become members? How do digital networks empower their members? What, if any, effects beyond the academic world do digital networks deliver?
Moderator: Ulrike Hahn, Chair International Advisory Board

Panel Discussion
Kim Holmberg | University of Turku
Beronda L. Montgomery | Michigan State University
Matias Acosta | Cambridge University & United Nations Development Programme

11:15 a.m. - 11:45 p.m. — *coffee break*

11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. — **Section II: Offline Networks**

Kick-Off
Caroline S. Wagner | Ohio State University

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Panel II: What attracts individuals to become members of networks? How can they become members? How do networks empower their members? What, if any, effects beyond the academic world do networks deliver?
Moderator: Gerhard Wolf, International Advisory Board

Panel Discussion
Connie Nshemereirwe| Global Young Academy
Koichiro Agata| Waseda University
Albrecht Wagner | Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron (DESY)
Philipp Kanske | Technische Universität Dresden & Die Junge Akademie

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. — *lunch break*

2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	**Section III: Funding, Institutional and Individual Perspectives**

Panel III: What are (academic) networks? What distinguishes them from other professional networks? What effects do academic networks have and how do they create them? Why do academics join networks? How can we create inclusive networks that generate academic, and maybe also societal, benefits? What can funding organizations do to foster such networks?
Moderator: Joseph Francisco, International Advisory Board

Panel Discussion
Marc Fortin | Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Canada
Alastair Buchan | Oxford University
Catherine Heymans | University of Edinburgh
Lysanne Snijders | Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries

3:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	*coffee break*

4:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	**Concluding Plenary Discussion**

4:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	**Summary of Panel Discussions**

4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	**Plenary Discussion** **Moderator: Sharon Macdonald,** International Advisory Board

7:00 p.m.	**Conference Dinner**	**Restaurant Refugium**

Tuesday, 10 December 2019	**Room 102	WissenschaftsForum**

Only for Members of the International Advisory Board

8:45 a.m.	*guided walk to location (meeting point: hotel lobby)*

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	**International Advisory Board Meeting**

9:00 a.m.	**International Advisory Board Meeting**

12:30 p.m.	*Farewell Lunch*