



Alexander von Humboldt
Stiftung/Foundation

The Philipp Schwartz-Initiative of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation supported by the Federal Foreign Office

As critical thinkers, researchers frequently play a special role in overcoming crises, which oftentimes places them in grave danger. Persecution on political grounds afflicts countries across the globe. While the importance of providing visible support to persecuted researchers has been recognized in many countries, Germany is currently not as active in this area as it might be.

This is what the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is now addressing. For over 60 years, it has funded internationally mobile researchers – including those from totalitarian regimes – contributing to the rapprochement between blocs, to fostering an authentic understanding of a liberal country, and to the establishment of political relations. The latter proved particularly fruitful in strengthening reforms in totalitarian regimes.

The Philipp Schwartz Initiative, launched by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the Federal Foreign Office, aims to establish a support system for researchers at risk, independent from their country of origin. As a contribution to Germany's Foreign Cultural and Educational Policy, the Initiative will enable universities and research institutions in Germany to apply for funds to finance fellowships and to foster expertise on this topic.

In order to raise awareness for the topic of researchers at risk amongst higher education and research institutions in Germany and to highlight their role as proponents of values such as the freedom of science and research, the Humboldt Foundation will pursue several activities beyond the sponsorship of individual fellowships. Workshops will foster the exchange of ideas and best practices among host institutions and with leading experts in the field.

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