



**PRESS RELEASE**

**20 April 2021**

## **New Publications: *(Post)Colonialism and Cultural Heritage* and *From monastery to Humboldt Forum***

**Colonialism and coloniality, as well as the history and architecture of the site, are the foundational themes upon which the Humboldt Forum's content and programmes are built – this is also the case with its two newest publications. The volume *(Post)Colonialism and Cultural Heritage* brings together contributions from globally engaged experts who have accompanied the Humboldt Forum throughout its development. The inclusive book *From Monastery to Humboldt Forum* invites you to learn the history and buildings of this very special place. They will be presented in an online event on 22 April.**

### **(Post)Colonialism and Cultural Heritage. International Debates at the Humboldt Forum**

How can Western perspectives be diversified? In what ways do descendant or communities of origin view their tangible and intangible cultural heritage in European collections? How are those currently in possession of collections stemming from colonial contexts dealing with them? Examining colonial history and (post)colonial continuities and perspectives will be one of the central topics of this publication. This is also in view of the debates around the objects in the ethnological collections which will be displayed in the exhibition areas of the Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin at the Humboldt Forum this year.

This publication engages itself with the current discourse and features contributions from renowned international museum experts who have accompanied the Humboldt Forum throughout its development. This panel of international experts, including George Okello Abungu, Hu Wei, Jyotindra Jain, Natalia Majloun, Kwame Anthony Appiah and Neil MacGregor, has brought together the sometimes critical voices and perspectives of colleagues from across four continents who are distinguished by their special worldwide connections to collections, museums and university institutions. They have given the Humboldt Forum important impulses in terms of content and structure.

Their essays and conversations draw from an individual wealth of experience that also shapes their assessment of the intense debate about provenance and restitution of ethnographic collections. By addressing the role of museums and collections as well as the relationship between research and exhibitions, the texts approach the Humboldt Forum from different perspectives and encourage readers to question their own views.

Includes contributions from George Okello Abungu (Nairobi), Kwame Anthony Appiah (New York), Philipp Blom (Vienna), Hartmut Dorgerloh (Berlin), Rita Eder (Mexico City), Hu Wei

(Shanghai), Jyotindra Jain (New Delhi), Lars-Christian Koch (Berlin), Lee Chor Lin (Singapore), Neil MacGregor (London), Natalia Majluf (Lima), Wayne Modest (Amsterdam), Nazan Ölçer (Istanbul), Barbara Plankensteiner (Hamburg), Thomas Thiemeyer (Tübingen), Abdoulaye Touré (Dakar)

Publisher: Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss  
Hanser Verlag, 272 pages, €18, pub: 19 April 2021

**From monastery to Humboldt Forum. 700 years of history and architecture. A multi-sensory book (in German language)**

Whether with fingertips, eyes or ears – the facades, architectural details and stages of the Humboldt Forum can be explored in many ways in this publication. The Humboldt Forum's first inclusively designed book uses 14 tactile pictures and text in large print and braille to invite its readers and listeners to get to know the history and buildings of this special site in a special way. The book is also enhanced by an audio version which will be available to download from the Humboldt Forum website. This volume was created in collaboration with members of the culture and leisure working group of the Allgemeiner Blinden- und Sehbehindertenverein Berlin gegr. 1874 e. V.

On 22 April, the Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Relating to Persons with Disabilities, Jürgen Dusel, will discuss inclusivity in the cultural and museum sector, specifically at the Humboldt Forum, with consultant Friedrun Portele-Anyangbe. With Katja Gimpel (Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss) and Christine Rieger (member of the Arbeitskreis Kultur und Freizeit des ABSV in the Allgemeiner Blinden- und Sehbehindertenverein Berlin gegr. 1874 e. V). Music: Jonas Hauer & Ariane Jeßulat, Moderation by Shary Reeves. Broadcast in German Sign Language, Easy Language and live subtitling. More information and dates of other Humboldt Forum events can be found [here](#).

Publisher: Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss, design by inkl. Design GmbH – Agency for inclusive design, audio edition by Antenna Audio GmbH, audio version production by Linon Medien KG,  
64 pages, €24,90

With large print and braille text, 14 illustrations, 6 images in 3D, tactile printing, tactile floorplan and online audio version. The book will be available shortly, exclusively from Muson, the Humboldt Forum's museum shop.

One building, four partners: The diverse range of voices is founded on the collaboration of our partner institutions. The Humboldt Forum is a collaboration between the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss; the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz for collections from the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin; the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin for the Humboldt Lab; and Kulturprojekte Berlin with the Stadtmuseum Berlin for the Berlin exhibition.

Dependent on the pandemic situation easing, the Schlüterhof and the Passage in the Humboldt Forum, as well as the exhibitions on the ground floor and first floor, are expected to open in spring. (*History of the Site, Have a Seat! An Exhibition for Children, BERLIN GLOBAL* and *After Nature*). The second and third floors of the west wing will follow in late summer 2021, along with the Ethnologisches Museum, the Asiatisches Museum and the roof terrace. Finally, the entire building will be open to visitors around New Year 2022.

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