

**PRESS RELEASE****1 October 2025****Opening****2 October 2025, 6 -11 p.m.****Themed days *Care or Chaos?*****3–5 Oktober 2025**

## **Family Matters: new annual programme kicks off with exhibition and themed weekend**

With its annual programme *Family Matters*, the Humboldt Forum explores the fabric of family ties. For the first time, all four of the institution's partners join forces with international collaborators to curate exhibitions and events that will extend across the entire building – from the permanent exhibitions to the Knoblauchhaus Museum, reaching even beyond the Humboldt Forum itself. The exhibitions open on 2 October 2025 at 6 p.m., offering visitors a first glimpse into the diverse programme with talks, short exhibition tours and a concert – all free of charge. From 3 to 5 October 2025, the themed weekend *Care or Chaos?* will spotlight pressing questions around care, nursing and family relationships.

Love or burden? Tradition or trauma? Rock or surf?

The new annual programme *Family Matters* at the Humboldt Forum explores what family and kinship can mean – and what shapes them – in Berlin, in Germany, and around the world. Through exhibitions and events, it examines family relationships across different times and cultures.

### **Five perspectives, one theme**

The annual programme is divided into five central areas that offer different insights into family and kinship:

- **Personal perspectives:** The special exhibition *Family Matters* on the ground floor is the starting point for a tour of the entire Humboldt Forum. With ten

partly interactive meeting points, it invites visitors to reflect on their own experiences and family relationships.

- **Historical perspectives:** Selected objects and changing presentations in the permanent exhibitions (Museum of Asian Art, Ethnological Museum, BERLIN GLOBAL, Humboldt Laboratory, History of the Site) as well as the Knoblauchhaus Museum show how family has been conceived across different times and cultures.
- **Contemporary perspectives:** Temporary exhibitions at the Ethnological Museum and the Museum of Asian Art (2nd and 3rd floors) focus on artistic and linguistic expressions of belonging and kinship – including indigenous contexts.
- **Events and formats:** Theme days, discussions, films, performances, concerts, guided tours, workshops, and collaborative projects open up surprising approaches to the topic as intangible cultural heritage.
- **Publication:** The book Family Matters brings together contributions from the arts, science, journalism, and family archives, offering international perspectives on the subject.

More information: [humboldtforum.org/en/family-matters](https://humboldtforum.org/en/family-matters).

Hartmut Dorgerloh, General Director of the Humboldt Forum: „Family Matters is more than just a programme – it is an invitation to experience the Humboldt Forum in a new way.

For the first time, all of the institution’s partners have jointly chosen a theme that is both universal and deeply relevant: family in all its facets. This socially significant programme vividly demonstrates the potential of the Humboldt Forum. The collections open up fresh perspectives, unexpected connections emerge, and throughout the year a wide range of events invite visitors to be moved, inspired, and encouraged to reflect for themselves."

Lars-Christian Koch, Director of the Ethnologisches Museum and Museum für Asiatische Kunst: „Family affects us all. We are harnessing the enormous potential of this theme to open up new approaches to the collections and to integrate contemporary

perspectives. Above all, we aim to show how diverse family ties are conceived and lived around the world – always as expressions of social, cultural, and political contexts.“

Sophie Plagemann, Artistic Director of the Stadtmuseum Berlin: „At the Knoblauchhaus Museum and in the BERLIN GLOBAL exhibition, we link historical contexts with current issues such as migration, housing and tradition. The interventions by Beziehungsweise Familie reinterpret objects and reveal continuities, breaks and developments. It is remarkable that different perspectives on the topic are presented here: only through a diversity of perspectives and new contextualisations can we succeed in telling the story of Berlin's diverse urban society as what it is: layers and stories – always in the plural.“

Julia von Blumenthal, President of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin: „Family is a topic directly connected to people's everyday lives – and thus to scientific questions that concern us all. As a university, we contribute our research perspectives to Beziehungsweise Familie and demonstrate how applied science can stimulate social debate. This underscores the close interplay between academic knowledge, cultural mediation, and social responsibility.“

Laura Goldenbaum, Chief Curator of the Annual Programme: “As a repository of knowledge and a multi-voiced meeting place, the Humboldt Forum offers unique opportunities to explore relationships between people – across generations, social backgrounds, and cultural contexts. Family, as a form of togetherness, creates social connections and enables us to view history, the present, and the future through different eyes.”

*The programme and the exhibition have been jointly curated by all four partners of the Humboldt Forum: the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss; the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz with the presentations of the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin; the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin with the Humboldt Labor; and the Stadtmuseum Berlin with the BERLIN GLOBAL exhibition and the Museum Knoblauchhaus in the Nikolaiviertel.*

**Detailed information on the programmes:** [humboldtforum.org/en/family-matters](http://humboldtforum.org/en/family-matters)

**Pressebilder:** [humboldtforum.org/en/press](http://humboldtforum.org/en/press)

## **PRESS CONTACTS**

### **Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss**

Andrea Brandis, Press Officer

+49 30 265 950-237, [andrea.brandis@humboldtforum.org](mailto:andrea.brandis@humboldtforum.org)

Mirko Nowak, Head of Communications

+49 30 265 950-520, [mirko.nowak@humboldtforum.org](mailto:mirko.nowak@humboldtforum.org)

[humboldtforum.org/presse](http://humboldtforum.org/presse)

Hendrik von Boxberg, Project PR

+49 177 7379207, [presse@von-boxberg.de](mailto:presse@von-boxberg.de)

### **Ethnologisches Museum und Museum für Asiatische Kunst**

#### **Staatliche Museen zu Berlin - Preußischer Kulturbesitz**

Angela Fischel, Museen im Humboldt Forum, Museumsstandort Dahlem

+49 30 266422014, [presse@smb.spk-berlin.de](mailto:presse@smb.spk-berlin.de)

### **Stiftung Stadtmuseum Berlin**

Karsten Grebe, Public Relations BERLIN GLOBAL

+49 30 240 02 - 273, [karsten.grebe@stadtmuseum.de](mailto:karsten.grebe@stadtmuseum.de)

### **Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin**

Jenni Haberland, Science Communication Officer/Open Humboldt

+ 49 30 2093-12736, [jenni.haberland@hu-berlin.de](mailto:jenni.haberland@hu-berlin.de)