

PRESSEMITTEILUNG**17 December 2025****„Hide or Tell?": Themed Days****of Family Secrets at Humboldt Forum****24 to 25 January 2026, daily 10:30 - 21:00****Jürgen Kuttner, Anne Rabe, Live-Podcast Kakadu e.g.****Part of this year's programme *Family Matters***

„Hide oder Tell?" Themed Days on Family Secrets at Humboldt Forum

In this year's programme *Family Matters* the Humboldt Forum explores the fabric from which family ties are woven. Since October 2025 all four of the Humboldt Forum partners, working together with international contributors, have for the first time put together exhibits on a single theme for the entire building. During the upcoming themed days in January 2026, titled „Hide or Tell?", artists trace the secrets of family life — through games, readings, performances, artistic interventions, and conversations

Silence and whispers, secret relationships, unknown kinships, inherited stories and hidden heirlooms — every family has its secrets. When would you rather let them go, and how can you break free from them? Do secrets connect people or isolate them?

Through playful, artistic and performative formats, the invited artists will approach the most hidden realms of community during the upcoming themed days, bringing them to light and questioning them.

Programme e.g.:

- **Sarah Ama Duah** builds living statues – hidden biographies can be glimpsed beneath their latex surfaces in the Sculpture Hall.
- Humor enters the room with **Jürgen Kuttner's** video snippets lecture „Kassiber aus der kleinsten Zelle der Gesellschaft" — look forward to Kuttner's family stories from both East and West.

- Author **Anne Rabe** invites dialogue about her unsparing East German family narrative „Die Möglichkeit von Glück“.
- **The Living Room** is a newly designed ground-floor space for gathering and activity, where diverse family lineages and stories can be explored. It hosts the craft-based workshop series „The Gift of the Spider“, built around a large-scale wall collage by Aliwaa Collective (**Raquel van Haver, Sindri Gonzáles Ipuana, Stefannia Doria**), which serves as the foundation for a collective artwork made from woven and knitted contributions. A **family library for all** curated by **Black Dads Germany** offers a wide selection of books on family matters.
- The musical reading from „Hewa Rwanda“ by Rwandan actor and **director Dorcy Rugamba** is authentic and deeply moving: 31 years after the genocide, he reads letters to the absent and speaks about family and hope.
- Shaped by stories of cultural repression in Turkey, a new shortfilm by performer and filmmaker **ŞOKOPOP** reflects on his own outing as queer and how inherited silence can be broken.
- **Heinrich Horwitz'** documentary theater performance „Das geteilte Kind – Feministische Stimmen über Trennungsgewalt und ein System, das versagt“ uses an artistic approach to give visibility to the stories of children and mothers affected by violence.
- The historic **Berlin Palace** also holds its own secrets. A staged tour provides a look behind the façades of patriarchal history and memory, revealing the lesser-known stories of the Hohenzollern family.
- **Li Binyuan** invites visitors to contribute their own voices and hear themselves within a unique soundscape: guided by familiar sounds of family members or friends, you become part of the performance „Plaza“ in the foyer of the Humboldt Forum.
- Children can dive into stories in the **Geschichtentheater**, learn about the nature of lies in a live recording of the **Kakadu podcast**, and record their own family secrets in the **Book Dash Workshop**.

- Children and adults alike can explore self-determination and imagination by painting flags based on designs by artist **Na Chainkua Reindorf**, whose large-format works will adorn the foyer in January.

Love or burden? Tradition or trauma? The annual programme *Beziehungsweise Familie* at the Humboldt Forum explores what family and kinship can encompass and what moves them – in Berlin, in Germany, and worldwide.

The exhibitions and events examine family relationships across different times and cultures.

Five Modules, One Theme

The annual programme is divided into five key areas, each offering different perspectives on family and kinship:

- **Personal Perspectives:** The special exhibition *Beziehungsweise Familie* on the ground floor serves as the starting point for a tour through the entire Humboldt Forum. With ten partly interactive meeting points, it invites visitors to reflect on their own experiences and family connections.
- **Historical Perspectives:** Through selected objects and changing presentations in the permanent exhibitions (Museum of Asian Art, Ethnological Museum, BERLIN GLOBAL, Humboldt Laboratory, History of the Site) and the Knoblauchhaus Museum, the Humboldt Forum's contributors show how family has been understood across time and cultures.
- **Contemporary Perspectives:** Temporary exhibitions by the Ethnological Museum and the Museum of Asian Art (2nd and 3rd floors) focus on artistic and linguistic forms of expressing belonging and kinship – including in Indigenous contexts.
- **Events and Formats:** Themed days, talks, films, performances, concerts, guided tours, workshops, and collaborative projects offer surprising approaches to the topic as intangible cultural heritage.
- **Publication:** *Global Stories about Affiliation, Disruption, and Belonging* brings together contributions from art, science, journalism, and family archives, highlighting international perspectives on the subject.

The programme and exhibition were curated jointly by all four Humboldt Forum partners: the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss, the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz with the collections of the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin with the Humboldt Lab, the Stadtmuseum Berlin with its Berlin Ausstellung, and the Museum Knoblauchhaus in the Nikolai Quarter.

Curatorial director: Dr. Laura Goldenbaum (Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss)

For detailed information on the individual programmes please visit:

humboldtforum.org/familiengeheimnisse

humboldtforum.org/family-matters

Press images: humboldtforum.org/presse

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