

A sepia-toned portrait of Alexander von Humboldt, an elderly man with light hair, wearing a dark coat over a white cravat and a white waistcoat. He is seated at a desk, looking slightly to the right. A globe is visible in the background on the left, and a book is on the desk in front of him. The overall tone is historical and scholarly.

A Working Conference
for Humboldt Studies

**ALEXANDER
VON HUMBOLDT
AND THE
HEMISPHERE**

JANUARY 15-17, 2009

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, USA

A Working Conference for Humboldt Studies

Alexander von Humboldt and the Hemisphere

January 15-17, 2009

Vanderbilt University
Nashville, Tennessee, USA

SPONSORS:

Center for the Americas
Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
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Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages at Vanderbilt
Department of History at Vanderbilt
Department of English at Vanderbilt

ORGANIZERS:

Vera Kutzinski, *Vanderbilt University*
Ottmar Ette, *University of Potsdam*
Laura Dassow Walls, *University of South Carolina*

PARTICIPANTS:

Kenneth Andrien, *History, Ohio State, USA*
Anja Becker, *Center for the Americas, Vanderbilt, USA*
Christiana Borchart de Moreno, *Quito, Ecuador*
Laura Dassow Walls, *English, University of South Carolina, USA*
Michael Dettelbach, *History, Boston University, USA*
Ottmar Ette, *Romance Literatures, University of Potsdam, Germany*
Christopher Iannini, *English, Rutgers, New Jersey, USA*
Tobias Kraft, *Romance Literatures, University of Potsdam, Germany*
Vera Kutzinski, *English and Comparative Literature, Vanderbilt, USA*
Katherine Manthorne, *Art History, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, USA*
Kent Mathewson, *Geography, Louisiana State University, USA*
John Ochoa, *Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Comparative Literature, Pennsylvania State University, USA*
Neil Safier, *History, University of British Columbia, Canada*
Suzanne Zeller, *History and Philosophy of Science, Laurier, Canada*
Michael Zeuske, *History, University of Cologne, Germany*



THURSDAY

January 15

- Morning and Afternoon Participants arrive at Embassy Suites Hotel in Nashville
- 6:45 p.m. Van will be outside the hotel for transportation to Vanderbilt
- LOCATION: Buttrick Hall**
- 7 p.m. Opening Reception at Buttrick Hall Atrium
- 8 p.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks
Vera M. Kutzinski
English and Comparative Literature, Vanderbilt, USA
Lutz Goergens
Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Atlanta Office
- Keynote by Ottmar Ette**
"TransTropics: Alexander von Humboldt's constructions of the American Hemisphere"
- 10:00 p.m. Van will be outside Sarratt Student Center for transportation to hotel

FRIDAY

January 16

- 8:30 a.m. Van will be outside the hotel for transportation to Vanderbilt
- LOCATION: Sarratt Student Center Rooms 216/220**
- 9-10:15 a.m. **PANEL ONE:**
Katherine Manthorne
Art History, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, USA
"Humboldt as Pictorial Muse"
- Respondent: Neil Safier**
History, University of British Columbia, Canada

FRIDAY

- 10:15-11:30 a.m. **PANEL TWO:**
Kent Mathewson
Geography, Louisiana State University, USA
"Humboldt, Guano, and the Origins of U.S. Overseas Expansion"
- Respondent: Michael Dettelbach**
History, Boston University, USA
- 11:30-12:45 p.m. **PANEL THREE:**
Michael Dettelbach
History, Boston University, USA
"The Last Universal Man? Humboldt's Universalism in Relationship to the Political Imagination of the Late 18th Century?"
- Respondent: Michael Zeuske**
History, University of Cologne, Germany
- 12:45-1:45 p.m. Lunch
- 1:45-3 p.m. **PANEL FOUR:**
Neil Safier
History, University of British Columbia, Canada
"An Absent Presence: Humboldt and Brazil"
- Respondent: Kent Mathewson**
Geography, Louisiana State University, USA
- 3-4:15 p.m. **PANEL FIVE:**
Suzanne Zeller
History and Philosophy of Science, Laurier, Canada
"Manifest Destinies in Two Humboldtian Texts: Lorin Blodget's Climatology of the United States (1857) and H.Y. Hind's Narrative of the Canadian Red River Exploring Expedition (1860)"
- Respondent: Christopher Iannini**
English, Rutgers, New Jersey, USA
- 4:15-4:30 p.m. Coffee break

FRIDAY

- 4:30-5:45 p.m. **PANEL SIX:**
Michael Zeuske
History, University of Cologne, Germany
 “Humboldt and Slavery”
- Respondent: Vera Kutzinski**
English and Comparative Literature, Vanderbilt, USA
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner at Buttrick Hall Atrium
- 9 p.m. Van will be outside Sarratt Student Center for transportation to Station Inn
- 9 p.m. - on **Night out at Station Inn**
 (<http://www.stationinn.com/>)

January 17

- 8:30 a.m. Van will be outside the hotel for transportation to Vanderbilt
- LOCATION: Sarratt Student Center Rooms 216/220**
- 9-10:15 p.m. **PANEL SEVEN:**
Christopher Iannini
English, Rutgers, New Jersey, USA
 “‘Fatal Revolutions’: *The Island of Cuba* and the Natural History of Caribbean Accumulation”
- Respondent: Suzanne Zeller**
History and Philosophy of Science, Laurier, Canada
- 10:30-11:30 a.m. **PANEL EIGHT:**
Vera Kutzinski
English and Comparative Literature, Vanderbilt, USA
 “Translating Humboldt: *The Island of Cuba*”
- Respondent: Laura Dassow Walls**
English, University of South Carolina, USA
Respondent: John Ochoa
Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Comparative Literature, Pennsylvania State University, USA

SATURDAY

- 11:30-12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 12:30-1:45 p.m. **PANEL NINE:**
Anja Becker
Center for the Americas, Vanderbilt, USA
Tobias Kraft
Romance Literatures, University of Potsdam, Germany
 “Textual Differences in Humboldt’s Cuba Work”
- Respondent: Katherine Manthorne**
Art History, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, USA
- 1:45-3:15 p.m. **PANEL TEN:**
Christiana Borchart de Moreno
Quito, Ecuador
 “Humboldt and the Quito Audiencia”
- Respondent: Kenneth Andrien**
History, Ohio State, USA
- 3:15-3:30 p.m. Coffee break
- 3:30- 4:45 p.m. **PANEL ELEVEN:**
Laura Dassow Walls
English, University of South Carolina, USA
 “Humboldt’s Passage to America”
- Respondent: Ottmar Ette**
Romance Literatures, University of Potsdam, Germany
- 5:15 p.m. Van will be outside Sarratt Student Center for transportation to hotel
- LOCATION: Sheraton-Nashville**
- 6:30 p.m. Wrap-up and Farewell Dinner

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

January 18

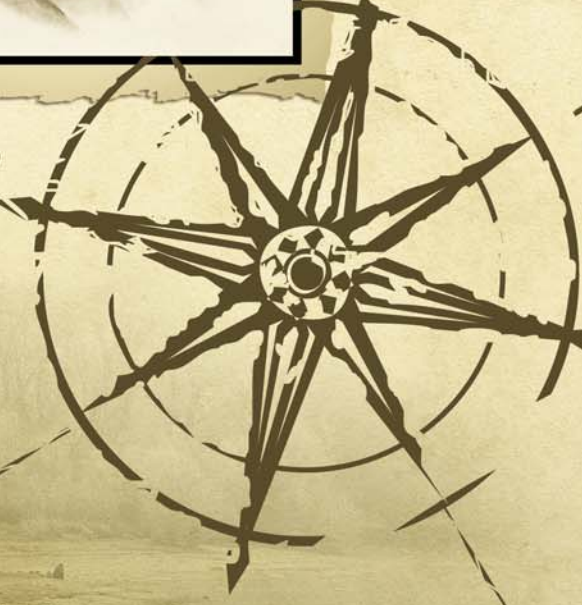
- 9:30-12 p.m. **HiE project meeting**
 Kenneth Andrien, Anja Becker, Christiana Borchart de Moreno, Ottmar Ette, Vera Kutzinski, and Michael Zeuske



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