

Final Symposium

Research and Higher Education in Central Asia and the Caucasus

10 – 12 June 2024

Symposium Programme

This version: 13 March 2024

Venue

Herrenhausen Palace
Herrenhäuser Straße 5
30419 Hannover, Germany
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/QLd7Y3vRxTSgB3819>

Aim

The final symposium of the funding programme “Between Europe and the Orient – A Focus on Research and Higher Education in/on Central Asia and the Caucasus” aims to take stock of 25 years of the Volkswagen Foundation’s commitment to the support of scientific research and capacity development in the countries of the region. In order to pave the way for further research, education and collaboration in the future, the event gathers researchers at various career stages, project administrators, funders, and other stakeholders to discuss the achievements of the funding programme, raise current issues of collaboration between Germany, Central Asia and the Caucasus (CAC), and provide perspectives for future engagement in and on the region.

Monday 10 June 2024

	Arrival and registration
12.30	Lunch
14.00 – 14.30	Opening words Welcome addresses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Georg Schütte, Secretary General of Volkswagen Foundation, Hannover • Prof. Dr. Martin Petrick, Institute of Agricultural Policy and Market Research, Justus Liebig University Giessen, Symposium Coordinator
14.30 – 15.15	Keynote 1: “Leveraging Academia for Sustainability Transformations” Prof. Dr. Thomas Breu, Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern, Switzerland
15.15 – 16.00	Keynote 2: “Making an academic career in Central Asia: a young researcher’s perspective” Dr. Aijan Sharshenova, Crossroads Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee break
16.30 – 18.00	Panel: Volkswagen Foundation looking back at the CAC programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Kerstin Klenke, Phonogrammarchiv, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna • Prof. Dr. Elena Korosteleva, Institute for Global Sustainable Development, University of Warwick, United Kingdom • Prof. Dr. Hermann Kreutzmann, Department of Geography, Freie Universität Berlin • Dr. Vitya Vardanyan, Institute of Molecular Biology, Armenian National Academy of Sciences, Yerevan • Dr. Matthias Nöllenburg, Program Director CAC at Volkswagen Foundation, Hannover Moderator: Dr. Georg Schütte, Secretary General of Volkswagen Foundation, Hannover
18.30	Dinner

Tuesday 11 June 2024

9.00 – 10.30	Project presentations in up to three thematic tracks (1) Natural sciences and engineering, (2) Social sciences and humanities, (3) International research collaboration and capacity building Three presentations per track
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 – 12.30	Three presentations per track
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.30	Three presentations per track
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break
16.00 – 17.30	Three presentations per track
17.30 – 18.00	Break
18.00 – 19.00	Musical conclusion of second day Vivid Voices, Jazz Choir of Hannover University of Music, Drama and Media https://www.vivid-voices.com/
19.00	Dinner

Wednesday 12 June 2024

9.00 – 9.45	Keynote 3: “How can academic partners enable international collaboration across cultures at eye level?” Prof. Dr. Ingeborg Baldauf, Institute for Asian and African Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
9.45 – 10.30	Keynote 4: “International collaborative doctoral education: best practices and reform needs” Dr. Aleksandra Bovt, Georg August University Göttingen & Prof. Dr. Nino Patariaia, Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 – 12.30	Panel discussion: The future of academic collaboration with Caucasus / Central Asia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Dr. Christopher Conrad, Institute of Geosciences and Geography, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg • Dr. Kirsten Kienzler, Department (non EU) Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, Central Asia, DLR Projektträger project management agency, Bonn • Dr. Nozilakhon Mukhamedova, Structured Doctoral Programme on Sustainable Agricultural Development in Central Asia, Justus Liebig University Giessen • Prof. Dr. Giga Zedania, Centre for Advanced Studies, Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia • Dr. Henrike Hartmann, Deputy Secretary General of Volkswagen Foundation, Hannover Moderator: Prof. Dr. Martin Petrick, Justus Liebig University Giessen
12.30 – 12.45	Final words
12.45 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00	End of symposium Optional guided tour of Hannover Old Town Centre or Royal Gardens of Herrenhausen

Coordinator of the symposium programme

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