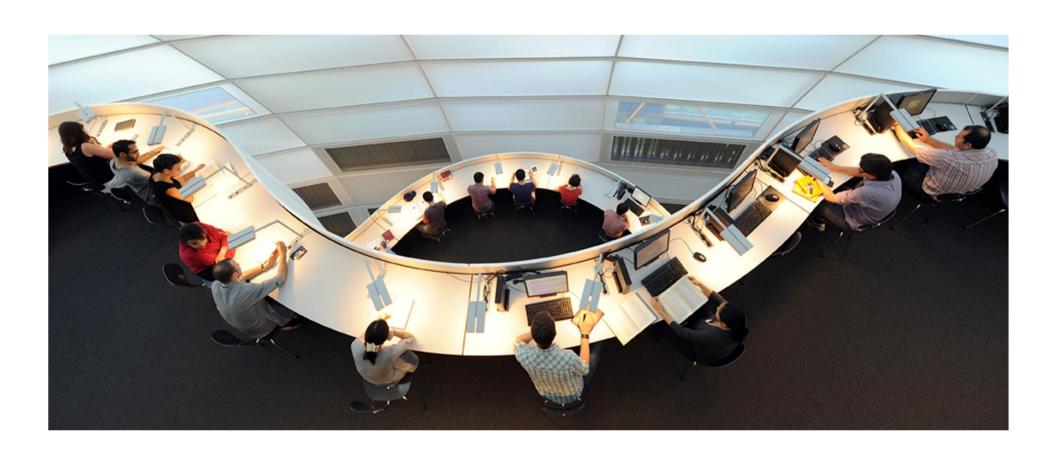


Humanities and Social Sciences

Peter-André Alt, President of Freie Universität Berlin





Societal Impacts of Humanities

- Humanities provide basic knowledge: they are not empiric
- Humanities allow to understand traditions: they help to recall and to memorize
- Humanities enable to differentiate:
 they help to structure and to prioritize information
 in order to create hierarchies of knowledge
- Humanities offer literacy:
 they provide us with the skills to concentrate on,
 to understand, and to repeat reading





Importance of Humanities and Social Sciences

- There is no reflection of knowledge, of history, and of our social roles without the humanities.
- A country that neglects the humanities and social sciences damages its culture, its history, and its identity.
- Training in the humanities and social sciences conveys the ability to think innovatively and to work scientifically, and is the foundation of scientific research.
- Innovation in the humanities consists in the development of reflective knowledge.



Support for Humanities and Social Sciences

- Humanities and Social Sciences do not require much funding.
- Public and private funding is needed for fundamental resources and provide scholars in the humanities and social sciences with time.
- Humanities scholars and social scientists need new forms of cooperation.
- Support measures:

Horizon 2020 on FU level

Research groups funded by German Research Foundation (DFG), Programs of Volkswagen Foundation or Thyssen Foundation,



Strengths of Freie Universität Berlin

- among the 5 top universities in Germany and among the 100 best worldwide¹
- FUB's Humanities and Social Sciences departments listed as the best in Germany²
- Numerous subjects that are not widely studied in Germany, such as Arabic Studies, Byzantine Studies or Dutch Philology
- innovative and high-performance natural sciences
- frequent spin-offs from university projects





Facts and Figures

- 35,500 students and 4,300 doctoral candidates at Freie Universität Berlin
- 33% of students and 28% of doctoral candidates in Humanities and Social Sciences
- 54% of all degree programs offered by Freie Universität Berlin are programs in Humanities and Social Sciences





Humanities at Freie Universität Berlin

Platforms for large-scale projects and their coordination





Dahlem Humanities Center

- The Focus Area Dahlem Humanities Center is the hub of the rich expertise in the humanities found at Freie Universität Berlin.
- Its mission is to investigate new questions and research trends by fostering regional and international interdisciplinary research cooperation with leading institutions from all over the world.
- Activities: lectures, conferences, workshops, panel discussions
- different international postdoc programs (funded by Volkswagen Foundation and Mellon Foundation, Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung, Thyssen Foundation)
- forums of ideas for launching new research projects
- thematic network "Principles of Cultural Dynamics"