



International Scientific Conference Humboldt-Kolleg

Limits of Knowledge

Cracow, 22-25 June 2017

*Dedicated to Dr. Heinrich Pfeiffer
in honour of his 90th birthday*

limitsofknowledge.edu.pl

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Humboldtians,

We are facing now a very rapid development of science, new findings (e.g. gravitational waves) and introduction of technical innovations which are significantly changing our life. It seems that we know and can do more but at the same time we are aware of the world being more complicated than we used to think before. For example, curing many diseases still remains an open problem and a challenge for researchers. Thus one should raise the question concerning our human knowledge, its development and limits.

We would like to focus on such problems in the “Humboldt-Kolleg” Conference entitled “Limits of Knowledge”. The year 2017, which will be dedicated in Poland to Prof. Marian Smoluchowski (1872-1917) a distinguished Polish physicist with the international recognition, is a very proper time to organize the conference devoted to human achievements and scientific thoughts. Our conference is addressed to both humanists and natural scientists.

The conference will be held in Cracow on June 22-25 2017. Dr Heinrich Pfeiffer, the former Secretary General of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, whose 90-th birthday

will come in 2017 will be the honorary participant of the meeting. We are pleased to dedicate the conference to him – the living legend of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, one of the co-founders of the Societas Humboldtiana Polonorum, the man of great heart and a friend of Poland.

We invite all of you to take part in the Conference kindly asking for a preliminary registration. As organizers we are obliged to present a list of potential conference participants when applying for the financial support to Alexander von Humboldt Foundation or other institutions. Following it we will try to arrange a free of charge participation for the AvH former scholars.

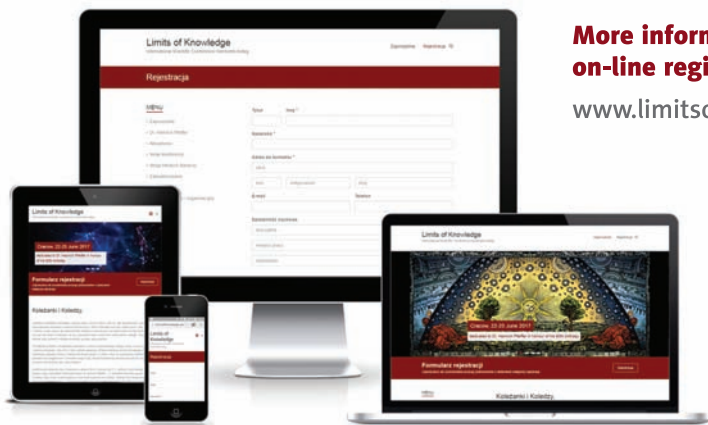
Inviting you to the conference we are also asking you to suggest short reports fitting the conference scope. We would also like you to recommend prominent scientists from your country for lecturing.

The young scientists session during the conference is traditionally planned and we ask all Humboldt scholars to recommend their young coworkers and PhD students for this session.

See you in Cracow!

Planned Sessions:

- Physics and Cosmology
- Limits of knowledge – chemistry and life science
- Genetics, molecular and cell biology
- Philosophical aspects of natural sciences
- Limits of knowledge in religion/theology
- [Myth & historical truth] Legends and myths in literature and history, the role of verbal message, dead languages
- Limits of cognition in art
- Legal and ethical aspects/limits of knowledge/development of science
- Psychology and cognition of humans
- When a fiction becomes a science – Innovations
- Latest achievements in medicine
- **Young researchers poster session**
- Discussion “Quo vadis science?”
- Discussion “The role, importance and achievements of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in development promotion of young scientists worldwide – experience and vision for future



**More information and
on-line registration:**

www.limitsofknowledge.edu.pl





Dr. Heinrich Pfeiffer – born on January 27, 1927 in Weinbach (Hessen). A PhD in philosophy and a researcher at the Swedish and U.S universities, the head of the German Branch of Fulbright Commission (1953-1956), and then longtime the Secretary General of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in the years 1956-1994.

He is the living legend of the Foundation – the initiator of the formation of the national societies of the Humboldt fellows, the creator of the Humboldtian Family and one of co-founders of the Societas Humboldtiana Polonorum.

He is the honoris causa doctor and the honorary professor of many universities and scientific institutions in the world and the laureate of many awards and distinctions. He also published a number of works devoted to international cooperation.

He is the man of great heart and a good friend of Poland.

The Chairman of the Organizing Committee: **Prof. Dr. Henryk Figiel**
Deputy Chairman / Secretariat of the Conference: **Prof. Dr. Marian Jaskuła**



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