



ISTA Lecture

The invention of nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World

Andrea Wulf

Host: Martin Hetzer & Gaia Novarino

In this beautifully illustrated talk, award winning and bestselling author Andrea Wulf tells the story of Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859), the great scientist and intrepid explorer who has more things named after him than anyone else. His restless life was packed with adventure and discovery, whether exploring deep into the rainforest or climbing the world's highest volcanoes. He turned scientific observation into poetic narrative, and his writings inspired naturalists and poets such as Darwin and Goethe but also politicians such as Jefferson and Bolivar. Humboldt explained nature as a complex web of life and interconnected global force – a concept that still shapes our thinking today. He described earth as a living organism that could easily be destroyed by humankind and predicted harmful human-induced climate change already in 1800. Using many dozens of Humboldt's own drawings, engravings, maps and manuscripts as well as the lush and colourful pages from her illustrated book, 'The Adventures of Alexander von Humboldt', Wulf brings this forgotten father of environmentalism back to life. BioAndrea Wulf is an award-winning author of several books, including the international bestseller 'The Invention of Nature. Alexander von Humboldt's New World' which is published in 27 languages. A New York Times bestseller, it also won fifteen international literary awards, including the Royal Society Science Book Prize 2016 and Costa Biography Award (UK) and the LA Times Book Prize 2015 (US). Her latest book Magnificent Rebels was published under great acclaim in autumn 2022. Andrea has written for many newspapers including the Guardian, The Atlantic and New York Times. She's a member of PEN American Center, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and a Miller Scholar at the Santa Fe Institute.

Tuesday, June 18, 2024 05:00pm - 06:00pm

Raiffeisen Lecture Hall



This invitation is valid as a ticket for the ISTA Shuttle from and to Heiligenstadt Station.

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<https://ista.ac.at/en/campus/how-to-get-here/> The ISTA Shuttle bus is marked ISTA Shuttle (#142) and has the Institute Logo printed on the side.

