

Alexander von Humboldt's Proto-Ecological Thinking

RCE Greater Atlanta Higher Education Learning Community
Virtual Research Seminar

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12:00 Noon - 1:15 PM

Webinar link: <https://bluejeans.com/215302171>



Abstract: Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859) was one of the most important scientific and humanist thinkers of the nineteenth century, with foresights that resonate in many current environmental debates. In accordance with his understanding of nature as spatial, dynamic, and fluid, Humboldt did not limit himself to one single subject matter but worked in fields labeled today as geology, geography, meteorology, biology, physiology, and anthropology. Rather than describing the physical world around him as static, Humboldt focused on processes and interrelations, studying both the distribution of matter and organisms and their interactions, and looking for bridges and connections that have by now become a defining centerpiece of any ecological inquiry.

Caroline Schaumann's current research focuses predominantly on ecocriticism and the environmental humanities, cultural histories of exploration and mountaineering, and the Anthropocene. *Mountains and the German Mind*, her co-edited anthology (with Sean Ireton) introduces and translates key text from the German cultural history of alpinism (under contract with Camden House). A native of Berlin, Schaumann received her Ph.D. in German Studies at the University of California at Davis.

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RCE Greater Atlanta is a regional sustainability network that supports implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional level through education and training. Higher Education Learning Community (HELIC) is an RCE action group that aims to facilitate the engagement of the SDGs by higher educational institutions and their community partners in a collective learning environment.



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