

# Austin Water Center for Environmental Research



Austin Water – The University of Texas – Texas A&M University  
A Partnership for Urban Ecology and Sustainability: Community, Education, Research  
located at the Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Plant  
2210 South FM 973, Austin, Texas 78725  
Website: [www.austintexas.gov/cer](http://www.austintexas.gov/cer)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/austinwatercer](https://www.facebook.com/austinwatercer)



## The CER Lunchtime Lectures 2022

Dr. Kevin M. Anderson, Austin Water Center for Environmental Research

### ***Alexander von Humboldt: Culture, Science, and the Geography of Nature***

In 1798, Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859) was appointed by the King of Spain to make the first extensive scientific exploration of Spanish America. Humboldt announced, “I shall collect plants and fossils and make astronomic observations. But that’s not the main purpose of my expedition – I shall try to find out how the forces of nature interact upon one another and how the geographic environment influences plant and animal life. In other words, I must find out about the unity of nature.”

The 2022 CER Lunchtime Lectures will focus on Alexander von Humboldt – his life, legacy, and rediscovery. We will begin by examining our Western ideas of nature and the study of nature which laid the foundations for Humboldt’s ideas. From there, we will trace the influence of Humboldt on 19th century science, literature, and his disappearance from 20th century scientific education in the United States. The year will end by seeing how Humboldt’s legacy is reemerging in the 21<sup>st</sup> century within environmentalism, environmental science, and the idea of the Anthropocene. Join us for a year of “Humboldtian Science” and Alexander von Humboldt!

#### **Western Culture and the Study of Nature**

January – Natural Philosophy and the Study of Nature  
February – Natural History and the Taxonomy of Nature  
March – Ecological Imperialism and the Geography of Nature  
April – Physical Geography and the Science of Nature

#### **Humboldt and the Science of Nature**

May – The Science of Nature: Humboldt and the Empirical Earth  
June – The Romance of Nature: Science, Imagination, and the Poets of Nature  
July – The Invention of Modern Nature: The Earth as a “Natural Whole”  
August – The Evolution of Nature: Humboldt, Darwin, and Biogeography  
September – The Economy of Nature: Ecology, Culture, and Cosmos

#### **Humboldt and the Geography of Nature**

October – The Great Disruptors: Physical Geography as Modified by Human Action  
November – The Earth Managers: New Sciences of Environmental Change  
December – The Anthropocene: Gaia and the Geography of Nature

**Time: Noon to 1pm at CER and SAC, 1230-2pm at UT**

**Free and Open to the Public – bring a lunch and learn**

#### **Locations and Day of the Month –**

**Every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday (except January) – UT University of Texas, Norman Hackerman Building, 100 E 24th St Room 1.720**

**Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday – CER Austin Water Center for Environmental Research at Hornsby Bend, 2210 South FM973**

**Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday – SAC PARD Senior Activity Center-Lamar, 2874 Shoal Crest Ave, South Room**

More information and to sign up for our email list, contact [Kevin.Anderson@austintexas.gov](mailto:Kevin.Anderson@austintexas.gov)

**The CER Lunchtime Lectures 2022 Schedule by Location and Date  
Times – CER and SAC from Noon to 1pm, UT 1230-2pm**

<b>January Lecture - Natural Philosophy and the Study of Nature</b>	<b>Jan 25 UT Jan 11 CER Jan 13 SAC</b>
<b>February Lecture - Natural History and the Taxonomy of Nature</b>	<b>Feb 1 UT Feb 8 CER Feb 10 SAC</b>
<b>March Lecture - Ecological Imperialism and the Geography of Nature</b>	<b>Mar 1 UT Mar 8 CER Mar 10 SAC</b>
<b>April Lecture - Physical Geography and the Science of Nature</b>	<b>Apr 5 UT Apr 12 CER Apr 14 SAC</b>
<b>May Lecture - The Science of Nature: Humboldt and the Empirical Earth</b>	<b>May 3 UT May 10 CER May 12 SAC</b>
<b>June Lecture - The Romance of Nature: Science, Imagination, and the Poets of Nature</b>	<b>Jun 7 UT Jun 14 CER Jun 9 SAC</b>
<b>July Lecture -The Invention of Modern Nature: The Earth as a “Natural Whole”</b>	<b>Jul 5 UT Jul 12 CER Jul 14 SAC</b>
<b>August Lecture - The Evolution of Nature: Humboldt, Darwin, and Biogeography</b>	<b>Aug 2 UT Aug 9 CER Aug 11 SAC</b>
<b>September Lecture - The Economy of Nature: Ecology, Culture, and Cosmos</b>	<b>Sep 6 UT Sep 13 CER Sep 8 SAC</b>
<b>October Lecture - The Great Disruptors: Physical Geography as Modified by Human Action</b>	<b>Oct 4 UT Oct 11 CER Oct 13 SAC</b>
<b>November Lecture - The Earth Managers: New Sciences of Environmental Change</b>	<b>Nov 1 UT Nov 8 CER Nov 10 SAC</b>
<b>December Lecture - The Anthropocene: Gaia and the Geography of Nature</b>	<b>Dec 6 UT Dec 13 CER Dec 8 SAC</b>

**SAC – PARD Senior Activity Center-Lamar - 2874 Shoal Crest Ave, South Room at 29<sup>th</sup> and Lamar - Time 12-1pm  
CER - Austin Water Center for Environmental Research – 2210 South FM 973 at Hornsby Bend – Time 12-1pm  
UT - University of Texas - Norman Hackerman Building (NHB). 100 E 24th St. Room 1.720 - Time - 1230-2pm**