

# Einstein Was a Refugee

## A Symposium at the Einstein Forum, Potsdam and at the Einstein Summer House, Caputh on Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Everyone is invited!

Talks and exhibition opening at the Einstein Forum (Potsdam) starting at 12pm

Dinner with musical performance at the Einstein summer house (Caputh) starting at 5pm

The world famous physicist Albert Einstein was not only a polymath with many interests. He was also a refugee who fought for the rights of political refugees after he settled in the U.S. The Einstein Forum carries on his spirit in Potsdam and operates Albert Einstein's house in Caputh. This house is not only the last remaining architectural testimony to Einstein's life in Germany but the last place Einstein lived before leaving Germany for good shortly before the Nazis seized power.

The day begins at 12pm with lectures and an exhibition opening at the Einstein Forum (located at Am Neuen Market 7, Potsdam). Festivities begin in Caputh at 5pm. Everyone is warmly invited to attend, especially those who have come to Germany because of persecution in their home countries. German-language ability is not necessary. At 4pm a bus will run free of charge from the Einstein Forum to Caputh. The bus no. 607 also leaves twice an hour from Potsdam's central station.

Speaking at the symposium will be *Jenny Erpenbeck*, a Berlin-based writer; *Peter Knösel*, a professor of jurisprudence at the Potsdam University of Applied Sciences; the Belarusian artist *Marina Naprushkina*, who founded a new initiative in Moabit to bring together refugees and Berliners, old and new; *Jannis Panagiotidis*, a professor of migration history at the University of Osnabrück; and the journalist *Aktham Souliman*, the former Berlin correspondent for Al Jazeera. At the symposium, the Syrian artist *Assem Rahimah* will open his exhibition *From Homs to Hamburg*, which can be seen at the Einstein Forum through July.

*Über den Tellerrand kochen*, a Berlin initiative that brings together refugees and Berlin residents by giving them chances to cook together, will provide the food in Caputh. The Berlin group *Yubal*, composed of the Syrian musicians *Jean Samara*, *Hazem Nasreddin* and *Mahmoud Fayoumi*, will provide the music.

### About the Einstein Forum

The Einstein Forum is a foundation of the German federal state of Brandenburg that serves the public as a laboratory of the mind. Through a varied program of conferences, workshops, podium discussions, and lectures it brings together original thinkers from all over the world to test new ideas—and interrogate conventional ones—with a general audience.

Topics span the arts and humanities, natural and social sciences, ethics and politics. Whatever the subject, speakers are urged to think outside traditional academic boundaries. The multidisciplinary emphasis encourages dialogue not only among experts from different fields but also, and just as importantly, between specialists and the public at large.

Underlying the Einstein Forum's programming, along with the books and articles published by our staff, is an abiding belief that thinking has a purpose besides advancing scholarly and scientific knowledge. It must provide orientation, foster curiosity, and inspire creativity. Moreover, like Albert Einstein himself, it must be committed to social responsibility.

Questions can be directed to Mischa Gabowitsch (in German, Russian, Ukrainian, English, French, Italian, or Spanish). He can be reached by email at [mischa.gabowitsch@einsteinforum.de](mailto:mischa.gabowitsch@einsteinforum.de) or by phone at +49 331 27178-0.

