



**Einladung  
zum  
Physikalischen Kolloquium  
Montag, 19.10.2015  
16:15 Uhr in N24/H13**



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**Tambora - What can we learn from the "Year Without a Summer" of 1816?**

The summer of 1816 was cold and wet in central Europe. In the Swiss Alps, snow fell down to the valley floors even in summer, and people complained about the endless rain showers. In fact, in Geneva, the mean temperature was 3-4 °C below normal and the number of rainy days was almost twice as high as in normal years. These conditions led to low harvest yields, high prices and the last famine in Switzerland in 1817. Malnutrition caused a high death toll. Furthermore, the melting of the enormous snow pack (the winter snow of 1816 had not melted) in spring 1817 led to huge flooding. The causes of the "Year Without a Summer" of 1816, which did not only (but particularly strongly) affect Switzerland, was the eruption of the volcano Tambora in Indonesia in April 1815. Today, 200 years later, science can study the eruption as an "experiment of nature": How can a remote volcano, 15000 km away, affect our weather? Which consequences would a similar eruption have today on global food security? And with which methods can we today reconstruct the weather for a time period over 200 years ago? The presentation will cover these aspects and show that studying this event forces us to take an "Earth and Human systems" perspective.

Ab 16.00 Kaffee, Tee und Kekse vor dem Hörsaal H13

**Organisation:** Prof. Dr. F. Jelezko, Tel. 23750

**Host:** Prof. Dr. O. Marti, Tel. 23011, off.: 23010