Dr. Luiza Bengtsson

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Career Perspectives

with a PhD in Natural & Life Sciences

Doctorate:
Biochemistry, Freie Universität Berlin, 2002

Current Position:
Head of Museum & Society, Botanical Garden Berlin

What are you currently working on?

Together with my team, I am developing exhibitions and outreach programs that address global challenges such as biodiversity loss, climate change, and the colonial past of botanical collections. A key focus is making hidden histories visible and opening up difficult but necessary conversations. My role is to set directions and empower teams to turn ideas into meaningful public experiences.

What do you find most exciting about your current job?

What excites me most is the variety — no two days are the same. I move between doing research myself, uncovering hidden histories, developing exhibitions, and working with the public and my teams. I love finding meaningful stories in our collections and seeing how telling them can change perspectives and spark reflection.

How did you find out about your current job?

After 15 years in science communication and leadership roles, I started actively looking for a position that would reconnect me with research and teaching. When I came across the opening at the Botanic Garden, it felt like a rare opportunity to bring my scientific background, communication experience, and academic interests together.

What role do skills gained in your PhD studies play in your current job?

My PhD trained me to think critically, structure complex problems, and work rigorously with evidence. These skills help me develop long-term strategies and communicate complex topics to diverse audiences. Even outside the lab, the scientific mindset remains a strong foundation for my work.

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