## Developing students' understanding of the nature of science in the context of Alexander von Humboldt's legacy for Grade 5 and Grade 6 classrooms in Baden-Württemberg schools

Von der Pädagogischen Hochschule Heidelberg zur Erlangung des Grades einer

Doktorandin der Erziehungswissenschaft (Dr. paed.)

genehmigte Dissertation von

Suzanne El Takach

aus

Baadba, Libanon

Erstgutachter: Prof. Dr. M. Schallies Zweitgutachter: Prof. Dr. P. Buck

Fach: Chemie

Tag der Mündlichen Prüfung: 6. September 2004

In memory of my dear mother

## Acknowledgements

My thanks go to my first supervisor, Prof. Michael Schallies for his support in my work despite his lack of time.

I also thank my second supervisor, Prof. Peter Buck for his endless patience and for initiating my thought to the 'Lehrkunstdidaktik'.

My deep thanks are for the jury members as well as my colleagues at the Chemistry Department at the Pädagogische Hochschule Heidelberg.

A special thank is for Frau Henrike Schön, the head of the foreign student office at the Pädagogische Hochschule Heidelberg, for her minute care about my stay and study.

I should also mention the DAAD for the friendly support in my research between November 2003 and January 2004, as well for awarding me the DAAD-Preis für Ausländische Studierende an der Pädagogischen Hochschule Heidelberg in 2002.

The science teachers at Bammental Gymnasium (Frau A. Lembens) and at Linkenheim Realschule (Herr. T. Eggert), I thank them for giving me the possibility to realize my teaching concept in their classes.

My grateful thanks go to the experts in Alexander von Humboldt Biography at the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, the Alexander-von-Humboldt-Forschungstelle, and at the Deutsches Museum in München.

Frau Gennrich, Frau Schmidt have been an important aid in helping me with the administrative issues as well as my friends Yvo and Jochen and in correcting the German quotations in the present thesis. I thank them deeply for their help.

Finally, I dedicate my work to my beloved family, for the unlimited moral and financial support and to the family Wellensiek, in particular to Frau Irina, who made me feel at home.