Focus: Third-party funded projects

Focus: New projects

Support for young academics

Leibniz ScienceCampus

Networking

The HKW-Team

Book series: Mainz Historical Cultural Sciences

www.historische.kulturwissenschaften.uni-mainz.de/eng/index.php
**HIGHLIGHTS**

- **2005**
  - Research Centre for Historical Cultural Sciences (HKFZ) Mainz-Trier

- **2008**
  - Participation in the Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum’s research project “Byzantine Archaeology”

- **10/2008**
  - Cooperation Agreement with the International Research Center for Cultural Studies (IFK) in Vienna and the University of Turku

- **11/2008**
  - Constitution of the Research Unit Historical Cultural Sciences (passing of the organisational procedures by the Senate of Mainz University)

- **2009**
  - Configuration of the image archive “Historical Cultural Sciences” within the Mainz Multimedia Database
  - Cooperation Agreement with the Research Center for Historical Cultural Sciences (HKFZ) Trier at the University of Trier
- GRC-Fellowship
  Dr. Erika Meyer-Dietrich (Uppsala)

- First Research Colloquium

04/2009  10/2009

2010

- DFG-funded international conference
  “Cultural History in Europe” (Mainz, March 17-20)

- GRC-Fellowship
  Dr. habil. Lutz Musner (IFK Vienna)

- Establishment of the Research Unit’s library

- Funding of the project “Friedrich Schlegel Critical Edition” by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation

- Publication of the first volume of the book series “Mainz Historical Cultural Sciences”:
  Mechthild Dreyer, Andreas Hüttig, Jan Kusber, Jörg Rogge (ed.):
  Historische Kulturwissenschaften. Positionen, Praktiken und Perspektiven. Transcript Bielefeld

- GRC-Fellowship
  Prof. Dr. Herbert Molderings (Bochum)

- Cooperation Agreement with the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (CMRS) at the University of Edinburgh
GRC-Fellowship
Prof. Dr. Vera Nünning (Heidelberg)

Cooperation Agreement
with the University of Aberdeen

Funding of the Research Training Group 1876 “Early Concepts of Man and Nature: Universal, Local, Borrowed” by the German Research Foundation (DFG)

Continuation of funding of the Research Unit Historical Cultural Sciences

International Conference „(Un)reliable Narration and (Un)trustworthiness: Intermedial and Interdisciplinary Perspectives“

Book series “Mainz Historical Cultural Sciences“: Publication of 16th volume

Public presentation of the concise book „Über die Praxis des kulturwissenschaftlichen Arbeitens“ at the Gutenberg Museum Mainz

Funding of the project “Edition of the Augsburg Master Builders’ Ledgers 1320-1466” by the German Research Foundation (DFG)
The Research Unit Historical Cultural Sciences [FSP HKW] is an institution for profile-building in the humanities and cultural sciences at the Johannes Gutenberg University [JGU]. Professors, academic staff and doctoral candidates in many disciplines collaborate on this profile-building. The FSP’s image may be described by the catch phrases interdisciplinarity, internationality, reflection on methods and orientation towards young academic talent.

INTERDISCIPLINARY
The FSP organises and facilitates the interdisciplinary collaboration of the cultural sciences and humanities disciplines represented at the JGU. So project ideas can be discussed and implemented following an interdisciplinary research perspective from the outset.

INTERNATIONAL
The FSP makes a contribution towards the international visibility of cultural sciences and humanities at the JGU by concluding co-operation agreements with research institutions at European universities and collaborating with partners within the context of different formats, including bilateral and trilateral projects, conferences and workshops for students studying for doctorates.

REFLECTION ON METHODS
International cultural sciences are distinguished by reflection on methods and terms. In this sense, in FSP projects cultural sciences topics are studied in a historical perspective and with differing interdisciplinary pretensions. Nevertheless these projects are always also the starting point for reflection on the heuristics, methods and theories employed therein. From these debates the FSP obtains stimuli for the organisation of interdisciplinary research and the development of appropriate research topics.

ORIENTATION TOWARDS YOUNG ACADEMIC TALENT
The FSP offers students studying for doctorates, who are interested in interdisciplinary work, the opportunity to inform themselves about the possibilities and opportunities of interdisciplinary work at a relatively early stage in their academic career. In the Forum “Young Cultural Sciences”, talented young academics can have their first experience, self-organised, with the bases and prerequisites of interdisciplinary research.

www.historische.kulturwissenschaft.uni-mainz.de
www.historische.kulturwissenschaft.uni-mainz.de/eng/
THIRD-PARTY FUNDED PROJECTS

- Research Training Group 1876: Early Concepts of Man and Nature
- Edition of the Augsburg Master Builders’ Ledgers
- Friedrich Schlegel Critical Edition
The Research Training Group (RTG) funded by the German Research Foundation is supported by 10 university teachers in the specialist fields of Egyptology, Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Near Eastern Archaeology, Classical Philology, Classical Archaeology, Medieval German Studies, Byzantine Studies and History of Medicine. From the winter semester 2014/15, the total number of 12 staff positions and 12 positions for associates is available.

In the RTG’s research programme, the object is to record concepts of man and nature in the Near Eastern, Northeast African and European area in the period from ca. 3200 BC until the Middle Ages – starting out from textual, pictorial and material sources – by means of examples and to study them in a culturally immanent as well as transcultural respect. To the forefront are questions about the nature, medial transmission and development of these concepts, in addition about their local, temporary, (text-)genre-related, linguistic, pictorial, sociocultural and individual form, as well as about contingencies and breaks.

**Spokesperson:**
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Tanja Pommerening

**Deputy spokesperson:**
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Jochen Althoff

**Duration:** 1st October 2013 to 31st March 2018 (first funded period)

**Project team members:**
Victoria Altmann-Wendling | Dominic Bärsc | Dominik Berrens | Tim Brandes | Imke Fleuren | Simone Gerhards | Sonja Gerke | Nadine Gräßer | Katharina Hillenbrand | Stephanie Mühlenfeld | Sarah Prause | Carrie Schidlo | Florian Schimpf | Tristan Schmidt | Valeria Zubieta Lupo

**Further persons involved:**
Dr. Silke Bechler | Prof. Dr. Klaus-Dietrich Fischer | Univ.-Prof. Dr. Heide Frielinghaus | Prof. Dr. Marion Gindhart | Prof. Dr. Sabine Obermaier | Univ.-Prof. Dr. Johannes Pahlitzsch | Univ.-Prof. Dr. Doris Prechel | Prof. Dr. Alexander Prüß | Univ.-Prof. Dr. Ursula Verhoeven-van Elsbergen
In order to align the spectrum of potential fields of topics in a targeted manner within the RTG four main focal points of research have been defined:

A) Concepts of the origin of the world and primordial elements,
B) Concepts of natural phenomena, natural forces and natural catastrophes,
C) Concepts of flora, fauna and landscape,
D) Concepts of the human body, disease and healing.

In order that seminal works can be produced for an all-embracing comparison, several doctoral candidates from different disciplines are devoting themselves to the same field of topics. In order to equip doctoral candidates for their own research, but also for the interdisciplinary collaboration in the Research Training Group and to make them competitive in the international labour market, the research programme is accompanied by a qualification programme geared to the objectives of the RTG in which, apart from the supervisors of the theses, a number of co-operation partners and co-operating institutions are involved. For example, the two study groups based at the JGU, “Ancient Medicine” and “Ancient Natural Science and its Reception”, are integrated into the programme. In addition, by means of co-operation agreements with research institutes and research units of archaeometrically working and natural scientific disciplines, such as, for example, the Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum and the Konrad Weidemann Centre, close collaboration of the humanities with natural and life sciences is practised.

PROJECT IDEA:

The Research Training Group is trying to close a gap in research by studying existing sources focussing on universal, traditional, but also specific elements. “As we are not starting out from already existing theories”, thus spokesperson Tanja Pommerening, “but are seeking to work out new models on the basis of textual, pictorial and material sources from the sphere of the archaeological-historical-philological sciences we represent, the Research Training Group tries to make in a long term perspective a significant contribution to basis research for cultural sciences.”

Gull, Viennese Dioskurides (paraphrase of Dionysios’ „Ornithiaka“) fol. 478
The goal of the project is the completion of “Friedrich Schlegel Critical Edition,” which, since its founding by Ernst Behler in 1958, has been recognized as the authoritative text basis for research into Romanticism and as a source of inspiration for literary studies. Seven volumes (5 vols. of correspondence, 1802-1839; 2 vols. works) of the 35-volume complete edition are still to appear. Entrusted with the publication by the publishing house Schöningh, the project manager intends to fulfil a research desideratum by completing the edition on the basis of modern principles of historical-criticism and commentary. In this regard, the epistemological category of authenticity is the central maxim for constituting the text. In addition to the printed edition, a Friedrich Schlegel Portal (reference materials, text/commentary, facsimiles) is set for development in stages on a freely accessible online network.

From the point of view of literary history, Friedrich and Dorothea Schlegel’s “entry” into Vienna signifies the transfer of concepts from German Idealism into the hybrid, empirically-oriented cultural space of Austria. The theorem of intercultural alterity is employed to aid in overcoming polarized denominational debates about early vs. late Romanticism as obsolete procedures of evaluation. The project thus pursues the objective of situating the edition beyond Romantic-national literary history and within the context of European conceptualised literary studies, complemented by cultural sciences.

Project team members:
Matthias Emrich | Dr. Barbara Otto

Further persons involved:
Stephan Weissenfels
The project owes its existence and above all its form to the criticism expressed in editorial studies circles about the Friedrich Schlegel Critical Edition, which it now intends to counter. A part from infrastructural reasons, it is above all the genuine research needs of specialists that speak in favour of establishing the project in the Research Unit Historical Cultural Sciences. In the first instance, these are of a methodological nature, since other edition projects are also being conducted at the Research Unit HKW, Friedrich Schlegel's writings and biography require both literary and cultural-historical approaches.

In particular, the conversion experiences of Friedrich Schlegel and his wife Dorothea, who converted from Judaism to Catholicism, give the project a marked cultural-historical dimension.
Augsburg Master Builders’ Ledgers

Edition of the Augsburg Master Builders’ Ledgers

As an exceptional source of supraregional importance, the Master Builders’ Ledgers (MBL) present a series of urban financial records from the years 1320 to 1800. Named “Baumeisterbücher” in German after the councillors who administered the city’s accounts, nearly all budget expenditures and receipts from the Imperial City of Augsburg are kept within these books. With only a few gaps in tradition since 1320, the MBL provide extraordinary source material for multidisciplinary research such as economic and social history, history of administration, and for questions concerning cultural history.

The objective of this project is to make these sources available for research by editing their first annotated online edition. In a first step, the volumes from 1320 to 1466 will be prepared for presentation online. In collaboration with the Trier Center for Digital Humanities (TCDH), the Digital Academy Mainz (DA Mainz) and the Mainz University Library (UB Mainz), full-text transcriptions as well as digitized images of this source will be provided on the internet. A further aim of the project is to refine the technologies and methods applied and make them adaptable for other Digital Humanities projects.

Project management:
Prof. Dr. Jörg Rogge

Duration: June 2014 to May 2017
funded by the DFG

Project team members:
Dr. Stefan Grathoff | Alexander Graumann B.A. | Michael Haft B.A. (DA Mainz) | Dipl.-Inform. Radoslav Petkov (TCDH) | Sarah Schrade M.A. | Simone Würz M.A.

Further persons involved:
Prof. Dr. Claudine Moulin (University of Trier) | Dr. Andreas Brandtner (UB Mainz) | Prof. Dr. phil. Dr. h.c. Gernot Wilhelm (ADW)
The methodology of Digital Humanities is utilised in two ways. On the one hand, the medieval texts will be transferred by using XML-based digital transcription tools. By indexing the names, places, and institutions, research using this extraordinary source will be facilitated. On the other hand, this type of processing enables the systematic, even automated, analysis of the structured data material. Being of immense density of tradition and providing similar contents over a long period of time, the Baumeisterbücher can, for example, be used to visualise wage or price developments.

Although the Baumeisterbücher have already been analysed by several researchers, their full potential has not been exhausted as they have not been made accessible in a suitable way yet. The editorial processing and the freely accessible online presentation of this project facilitate the manageability of the huge amount of material and opens up new possibilities of analysis.

**PROJECT IDEA:**

The MBL provide extraordinary access to the urban culture of a late medieval Imperial City. They can support, disprove and complete the acquainted image of Augsburg, shaped by other sources such as chronicles and charters. Thanks to today’s technologies, these financial records can now be edited and analysed in an appropriate and modern way.

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Entry of the Master Builders’ Ledger of 1414 (fol. 43v): The Augsburg city councillors receive at Christmas wine, gingerbread and candy worth 10 pounds and 5 shillings pence.

Transcription:

It(em) 10 lb vnd 5 ß d den Räte(n) tzü wahrenheit(n) vmb wein vnd vmb lebzelte(n) vnd Co(n)uect

© City Archive Augsburg
Jean Baptiste Simeon, Portrait of Auguste Gabriel Godefroy, Louvre, Paris
NEW PROJECTS

- Before Cultural History
- Narratology Interdisciplinary
- Dealing with objects in early modern palaces
BEFORE CULTURAL HISTORY

The project reappraises “Cultural history before cultural history”. It wants to reconstruct the factors behind the development of modern historical and cultural awareness, differentiate the forms of speaking about culture and reveal the origins and ongoing traditions of historical cultural sciences in a methodological manner.

In the project, books and magazine contributions from the period from 1760-1810 will be studied. At that time, cultural historiography in the narrower sense began. It plays a decisive role for the formation of historical awareness as well as for the establishment of historical subjects at universities and, not least, for the institutionalisation of culture (ministries of cultural affairs). Even if the discursive tradition of cultural historiography of the 18th century became less important in the genealogy of cultural history behind the historicism of the 19th century, the so-called old cultural history around 1900 and the Modern Cultural History from 1980 on, detailed discussions did take place in it on the topics of own, foreign and ‘universal’ culture with wide social effects.

PROJECT IDEA:

The idea goes back to the spokespersons of the Research Unit Historical Cultural Sciences who asked about the genealogy of historical cultural sciences and felt obliged in this connection to go back behind the First Cultural History set around 1900.

Project management:
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Ulrich Breuer

Project team member:
Dr. Matthias Däumer | Dr. Christine Waldschmidt

Duration: Submission of application second half of 2015

Further persons involved:
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Jan Kusber | Dr. Andreas Hütig | Emil Fadel
In the course of the project, relevant texts will be made accessible. The studies will analyse content (cultural and historical understanding, anthropological assumptions), formal (paratexts, narratives), methodological (historiography concepts, scientific understanding) and institutional aspects. They will discuss historical-epistemological and cultural sciences questions: What narrative forms can be brought out? What contribution does cultural historical knowledge and its institutionalisation make to the eighteenth century’s conception of itself? What modes of reception do cultural historical works experience? How does cultural historical access present itself in synchronous international comparison?

With the help of co-operation partners from various subjects, it is intended to achieve a reappraisal of a formation phase of modern cultural historiography.
PROJECT IDEA:

Although Hayden White’s monograph “Metahistory” already addressed the narrative character of historiography back in the early 1970s, however, the initiated discussion among experts remained to the largest extent focussed on the question of the (non-)fictional state of historiography. To date there are only few works which apply narratology to historiography as a research method. This is where the project “Narratology Interdisciplinary” is supposed to start. Based on the assumption that narratology, as it has been developed for the study of literature, is suited to describe and analyse non-literary texts as well, the objective of the project aims at the exploitation of the merits and limits of this method.

Coronation of Alexander III of Scotland. Illumination from the Scotichronicon, f. 206, Corpus Christi College Cambridge, MS 171
Narrations make (hi)story(ies). Since both, membership of a social culture and difference are produced by means of narrations, cultures can be understood as narrative communities. Up to now, narratology (the theory and study of narrative) was above all a field of literary studies, applied in particular to so-called fictional texts. However, many other disciplines also work with written records such as history. For this reason it seems promising to utilise the methodological potential of narratology for the heuristics of interdisciplinary work.

First of all, it is intended to examine, on the basis of late medieval narrative sources (chronicles, personal testimonies etc.), what analytical potential narratology offers for non-literary/non-fictional texts. Among the sources studied here are two historio(bio-)graphic testimonies from the 14th and 15th centuries – John Barbour’s *Brus* and Walter Bower’s *Scotichronicon*. The fact that both works are often assessed in research tradition as being an early expression of Scotland’s national unity and independence is understandable in view of current political trends, but does entail the risk of not doing justice to the works in their complexity. Text-based analysis, interpreting the texts not exclusively against the background of the currently pre-determined interest horizon, but comprehending them rather as richly faceted products of contemporary coping with contingency and producing meaning, helps here.

In addition, the results of this concrete work are intended to contribute towards stimulating the debate by an interdisciplinary narratological perspective in cultural sciences.
DEALING WITH OBJECTS IN EARLY MODERN PALACES

Things in the early modern period practices of European residences (working title)

PROJECT IDEA:

The research project deals with the thing-related practices of European élites from the late 15th until the early 19th century and asks how the early modern spaces were constituted in their material and symbolic presence through intentional or spontaneous action involved with and through things. Particular interest is paid to the material dimensions of social and architectonic spatial dynamics that can be observed in the European palaces. As places of intensified social action and a particularly rich thing culture, palaces of the location of the early modern period are at the centre of the research project. In their function as the seat of the court, they stand out in a special manner for an obviously narrow concentration of political action, as well as the produc-
tion of art and knowledge. As centres of power and patronage, they fulfil stabilising tasks at different levels and serve, among other things, for a visible spatialisation of social and aesthetic orders. Understood as an association of persons, the court is characterised by a conspicuous social as well as spatial mobility. Therefore, residences function also as privileged places for transfer processes into which both people and things are always integrated.

The project starts out from such a physical and material embodiment of space-constituting practices. Various active participants – social and material actants (Bruno Latour), individual and collective institutions and actors – are involved in the processes of construction and transformation of the residences’ palace rooms. Dynamics result from the interrelations of these actants and actors that generate, deny or stabilise the spatial arrangements, making them visible and perceptible in material presence. Among other things, a study will also be conducted to what extent in this connection things also play a decisive, active role in their material, symbolic and performative dimension.

The relevance of the project for cultural sciences is obvious: it brings together different disciplines (history, art history, literary studies, musicology), discusses the theories of the artefacts and asks about materiality in cultural and social practices.
SUPPORT FOR YOUNG ACADEMICS

- Forum “Young Cultural Sciences”
INTERDISCIPLINARY
The Forum Young Cultural Sciences has been part of FSP Historical Cultural Sciences since 2009 and has since then cultivated interdisciplinary exchange. Graduate students studying for doctorates and post-docs of all faculties of the University, who pursue a historical cultural science approach, have the possibility of actively shaping this exchange.

THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL BASES, DISCUSSION AND NETWORKING
The aim is to create a lively dialogue. At 2 to 3 sessions per semester, theoretical and methodological bases, as well as important terms of Historical Cultural Sciences are discussed. In addition, how the same can be used to benefit one’s own project plays a central role. The discussions form the basis of interdisciplinary collaboration and intra-university networking. In addition, lectures, workshops and research colloquia with guest academics, as well as further speakers take place, making international networking possible, too.

EXTENSIVE SUPPORT
Apart from the exchange as regards content and networking, the possibility of financial support for one’s own scientific project is offered through membership of the Forum Young Cultural Sciences.
NETWORKING

- Partners
- Leibniz ScienceCampus Mainz
One of the Research Unit’s tasks is the regional, national and international networking of those working in cultural sciences at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. By means of institutional and personal contacts and cooperation agreements, existing projects are intended to be expanded and new ones to be developed as well as additional forms of collaboration are to be made possible. For this reason, the Research Unit as an institution co-operates with a number of important regional, national and international research institutions and associations with a historical-cultural sciences orientation. In addition its members also cultivate a large number of individual contacts and cooperation agreements with scholars at home and abroad.

**PARTNERS**

**NATIONAL**

Academy of Sciences and Literature Mainz, Leibniz Institute for European History Mainz, Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum Mainz (RGZM), Leibniz ScienceCampus Mainz, Research Center for Historical Cultural Sciences (HKFZ) at the University of Trier, Kues Academy for European Intellectual History e.V. in Bernkastel-Kues

**INTERNATIONAL**

International Research Center for Cultural Studies (IFK), University of Linz, Vienna; International Society for Cultural History (ISCH); Institute for Cultural History, University of Turku; Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (CRMS), University of Edinburgh; Dipartimento Tempo, Spazio, Immagine, Società (TeSIS), University of Verona; Centre for Early Modern Studies (CEMS), University of Aberdeen; Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iaşi, Romania
Executive committee:
Prof. Dr. Falko Daim (Sprecher) | Dr. Jörg Drauschke | Prof. Dr. Johannes Pahlitzsch | Prof. Dr. Jörg Rogge | Prof. Dr. Vasiliki Tsamakda

Further Partners:
Leibniz Institute of European History
State Museum Mainz
Rhenish State Museum Trier

Duration: since 1st June 2011

Executive committee:
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Further Partners:
Leibniz Institute of European History
State Museum Mainz
Rhenish State Museum Trier

Duration: since 1st June 2011
LEIBNIZ SCIENCECAMPUS MAINZ: BYZANTIUM BETWEEN ORIENT AND OCCIDENT

The Leibniz ScienceCampus Mainz is a research co-operation project between the Leibniz Institute Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum and the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz for interdisciplinary Byzantine research. The networking with the university takes place, in particular, through the FSP Historical Cultural Sciences. The spokesperson and members of the FSP are represented on the executive committee of the ScienceCampus, participate in research projects or head the latter. The co-operation agreement offers the possibility of jointly developing interdisciplinary projects and formulating appropriate applications for external funding. The activities of the co-operation partners are supplemented by joint study days, workshops and conferences, as well as the lecture series “Byzantium in Mainz”.

The aims of the ScienceCampus is to establish a broad platform for interdisciplinary research on Byzantium on an institutional basis in order to study the many and diverse cultural transfer, exchange and reception processes that took place, both in the reception in Antiquity and in the continued existence of Byzantine culture, and also between Byzantium and the Latin West, the Slavonic North and the Islamic East comprehensively in a uniform approach. Apart from Byzantine Studies as well as Christian Archaeology and Byzantine Art History, all subjects taught at the JGU, which contribute to research into the Byzantine Empire and its culture, are involved. The ScienceCampus Mainz is thus promoting the integration of the fragmented academic disciplines dealing with Byzantium. It facilitates topic-oriented, multidisciplinary, historical cultural sciences research under one roof and, through a joint presence of Byzantine research, brings about a better awareness for this field of studies.

The concept of the ScienceCampus is an initiative of the Leibniz Association that has the aim of networking extra-university and university research more strongly. Under the roof of the ScienceCampus, it is intended to focus excellence, conduct strategic research, promote interdisciplinarity as well as to strengthen the location’s research image.
The 2013 published concise dictionary is an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary contribution to the practices and open secrets of today’s academic cultural sciences work.
The Mainz Historical Cultural Sciences series publishes the results of research that develops methods and theories of cultural sciences in connection with empirical research. The central approach is a historical perspective on cultural sciences, whereby both epochs and regions can differ widely and be treated in an all-embracing manner from time to time.

Amongst other, the series brings together research approaches in archaeology, art history, visual studies, literary studies, philosophy, and history, and is open for contributions on the history of knowledge, political culture, the history of perceptions, experiences and life-worlds, as well as other fields of research with a historical cultural scientific orientation.
THE TEAM

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- Joint Committee
- Office
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