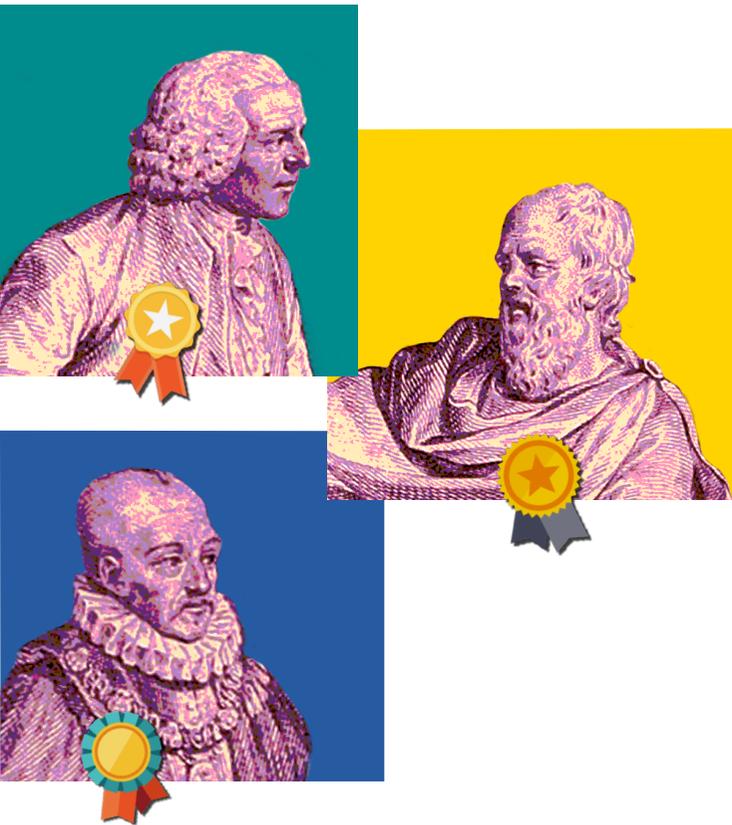


EMULATION, FAME, & KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

PRIZE CONTESTS IN THE EUROPEAN
REPUBLIC OF LETTERS (1670–1800)



International Conference
13–15 July 2022

Collaborative Research Center 980
"Episteme in Motion"
Freie Universität Berlin

Prize competitions were a shared practice across countries and institutions, playing a central role in the 18th-century public sphere, but they have received little scholarly attention. The conference examines these contests through new analytical and theoretical lenses, with an emphasis on comparative and transnational perspectives. Speakers analyse the long-term history of the genre and its rhetorical background while engaging with individual competitions especially from 'peripheries' of the Republic of Letters and beyond Europe. The conference thus contributes to an entangled history of this particular medium of the early modern Republic of Letters.



Organised by the Collaborative Research Center 980 "Episteme in Motion. Transfer of Knowledge from the Ancient World to the Early Modern Period"

In collaboration with the Voltaire Foundation at the University of Oxford

Venues:

Freie Universität Berlin
Seminarzentrum, Raum L115
Otto-von-Simson-Str. 26
14195 Berlin-Dahlem

Freie Universität Berlin
Villa Engler
Altensteinstraße 2
14195 Berlin-Dahlem

www.sfb-episteme.de

Please register with
emilia.sophie.moreno@hotmail.com



Wednesday, 13 July

Seminarzentrum, Raum L115
Otto-von-Simson-Str. 26 | 14195 Berlin-Dahlem

15:30–16:00

AVI LIFSCHITZ
(University of Oxford),
MARTIN URMANN
(Freie Universität Berlin)
Welcome and Introduction

16:00–17:00

MARTIN URMANN
(CRC 980 Episteme in Motion)
**Panegyric, confirmation of the canon, and
knowledge production: prize contests as a
hybrid medium of public debate**

17:00–17:15 Coffee break

17:15–18:15

ARJAN VAN DIXHOORN
(University College Roosevelt, Middelburg)
**Dutch prize contests as a measure of long-term
cultural change in Europe**

18:15–19:15

MARIA FLORUTAU
(University of Oxford)
**The role of the jury in shaping the prize essay
genre in the Netherlands in the second half of
the eighteenth century**

19:30 Conference dinner



Thursday, 14 July

Villa Engler
Altensteinstraße 2 | 14195 Berlin-Dahlem

10:00–11:00

MARTIN GIERL
(Georg-August-Universität Göttingen)
**Organizing science: prize contests in
Göttingen and the case of Georg Christoph
Lichtenberg**

11:00–12:00

RITA KRUEGER
(Temple University, Philadelphia)
**Constructing useful knowledge: essay contests
in Habsburg Bohemia and Moravia**

12:00–14:00 Lunch break

14:00–15:00

NICOLA MILLER
(University College London)
**Competing to define the future: prize contests
in independence-era Spanish America**

15:00–16:00

BÉLA KAPOSSY
(EPFL, Lausanne)
**'The spirit of legislation': the Bernese prize
essay competition of 1764**

16:00–16:30 Coffee break

16.30–17:30

JULIANE ENGELHARDT
(University of Copenhagen)
**From science to practice: the role of prize
contests in academies and patriotic**



**societies in the Danish-German-
Norwegian composite monarchy**

17:30–18:30

KELSEY RUBIN-DETLEV
(University of Southern California, L.A.)
**Popularisation and prestige in the
staging of prize contests at the
St Petersburg Imperial Academy of
Sciences, 1777–1802**

19:00 Conference dinner

Friday, 15 July

Villa Engler
Altensteinstraße 2 | 14195 Berlin-Dahlem

10:00–11:00

MARIA SUSANA SEGUIN
(Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier/ENS Lyon)
**Prizes and awards at the Royal Academy of
Sciences in Paris, 1700–1750**

11:00–12:00

IWAN-MICHELANGELO D'APRILE
(Universität Potsdam)
**The transformation of academic prize
contests in the aftermath of the French
Revolution**

12:00–13:30 Lunch break

13:30–14:15

Final discussion

