

POOLING EXPERTISE – DISCIPLINARY VARIETY AND COMPARATIVE RESEARCH

The Collaborative Research Centre draws on a unique diversity of academic disciplines concerned with art, literature and culture in a historical perspective. The Centre brings together scholars from the Freie Universität Berlin with researchers from a variety of other scholarly institutions from Berlin and beyond. The Centre's rich variety of disciplines includes Egyptology, Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Arabic Studies, Jewish Studies and the History of Science as well as Philosophy, Theology, Classics, Art History, European Literatures and Linguistics. This wealth of different subjects and perspectives makes possible intensive forms of comparative work juxtaposing, for instance, inscriptions from ancient Egyptian coffins with early modern language guides for foreign travel.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The Centre's website announces current highlights, upcoming events as well as new and forthcoming publications. We cordially invite you to visit our Listen, Read & Watch section and to explore photo galleries, conference papers and recordings of our past events.

In collaboration with the publishing house Harrassowitz we have initiated the book series "Episteme in Motion. Contributions to a Transdisciplinary History of Knowledge" to present the project's research results. The Centre's Working Papers, which can be downloaded free of charge from our website, ensure open access to our findings.

By the end of 2017, a podcast series will be launched that will showcase premodern objects – like a lost pyramid fragment or the famous gold ruby glass manufactured by alchemist Johann Kunckel – and the fascinating histories behind them.

Please subscribe to our newsletter to receive a quarterly update on our activities:

www.sfb-episteme.de/en/



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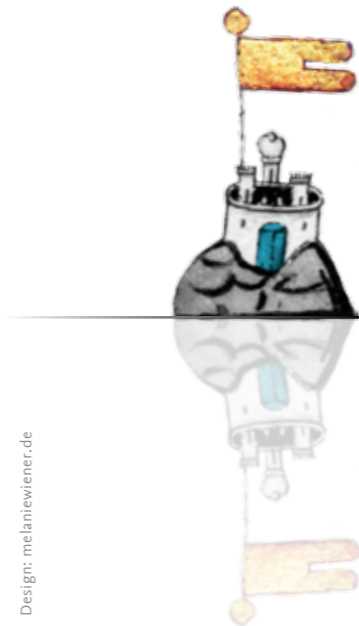
Having commenced its work in summer 2012 as a joint venture with the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, the Centre currently counts more than 80 members. In its second funding period (since 2016), an information infrastructure project has been included that draws on additional expertise provided by the Department of Computer Linguistics at TU Darmstadt as well as the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT).

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Collaborative Research Centre 980 Episteme in Motion. Transfer of Knowledge from the Ancient World to the Early Modern Period



THE COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE "EPISTEME IN MOTION"

is dedicated to studying knowledge change in selected premodern cultures from Europe and beyond. It aims at overcoming the modern view of premodern knowledge as static and tradition-bound, arguing instead that bodies of knowledge are in constant flux and, frequently, self-reflexive and aware of their own historicity. But this kind of change occurs over extended periods of time, in a subcutaneous fashion and through the transformation of already existing knowledge as well as through the tacit integration of novel items, so that the traditional toolkit of the history of knowledge with its focus on indicators of 'progress' within narratives of 'rupture' or 'revolution' does not offer appropriate models for the phenomena we are interested in.

Episteme – understood as a term that encompasses the areas of 'knowledge', 'science', and 'scholarly activity', while simultaneously defining knowledge as the 'knowledge of something', invested with a claim to validity – is always in motion, even (and especially) where it appears to remain stable.

KNOWLEDGE IN MOTION

Our fields of study comprise phenomena as diverse as the rivalries and dependencies between philosophical schools and traditions, the transfer of images from one medium to another, the translation of scientific or theological discourses into poetic texts, the long-term transformation of allegedly stable medical knowledge, the migration of theoretical concepts and approaches into different languages and contexts as well as the attempt to discursively capture 'elusive' knowledge, i.e. knowledge that resists conceptualisation.

The vibrant transcultural interchange between communities and institutions in premodern cultures raises a challenge to traditional notions of period boundaries and cultural mentalities, and can only be investigated in its full complexity in a collective transdisciplinary effort.

PROJECT AREAS AND PROJECTS

The three project areas are derived from the concept of *episteme*, understood to mean that knowledge is always the object of processes of negotiation in which it is secured, recognised, categorised, organised and authorised, but also destabilised, substituted or abandoned altogether. These processes often crystallise around specific forms of activity: telling, showing, and doing.


TELLING

- 
- Ao1** *Episteme* as Configurative Process: Internal Transfer in Cuneiform Textual Corpora
PROF. DR. EVA CANCIK-KIRSCHBAUM
(*Ancient Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Freie Universität Berlin*)
- Ao2** Ancient Egyptian Philology
PROF. DR. JOCHEM KAHL
(*Egyptology, Freie Universität Berlin*)
- Ao3** The Transfer of Medical *Episteme* in the 'Encyclopaedic' Compilations of Late Antiquity
PROF. DR. PHILIP VAN DER EIJK /
PROF. DR. MARKHAM J. GELLER
(*History of Science and Medicine / Jewish Studies / Classics, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Freie Universität Berlin*)
- Ao4** Processes of Creating Tradition in Late Antique Commentaries of *De interpretatione*
PROF. DR. GYBURG UHLMANN
(*Classics / Greek Philology, Freie Universität Berlin*)
- Ao5** From *Logos* to *Kalām*: Figurations and Transformations of Knowledge in Near Eastern Late Antiquity
PROF. DR. ANGELIKA NEUWIRTH
(*Arabic Studies, Freie Universität Berlin*)
- Ao6** *Alchemia poetica*. Chemical Knowledge and Poetry around 1600
PROF. DR. VOLKHARD WELS
(*German Literature, Freie Universität Berlin*)
- Ao7** *Erotema*. The Question as an Epistemic Genre in the French Learned Societies of the 17th and 18th Centuries
PROF. DR. ANITA TRANINGER
(*Romance Studies / Rhetoric / History of Knowledge, Freie Universität Berlin*)


SHOWING

- 
- Bo1** Artefacts, Treasures and Ruins – Materiality and Historicity in the Literature of the English Middle Ages
PROF. DR. ANDREW JAMES JOHNSTON
(*English Studies, Freie Universität Berlin*)
- Bo2** The Marvellous as a Configuration of Knowledge in Medieval Literature
PROF. DR. JUTTA EMING
(*German Literature, Freie Universität Berlin*)
- Bo3** *Imaginatio*. Knowing about Imaginative Visions. Theories of Mental Imagery in Medieval Philosophy and Theology
PROF. DR. ANNE EUSTERSCHULTE
(*Philosophy, Freie Universität Berlin*)
- Bo4** The Knowledge of Art. Epistemic and Aesthetic *Evidentia* in the Renaissance
PROF. DR. KLAUS KRÜGER
(*Art History, Freie Universität Berlin*)
- Bo5** The Theory and Aesthetics of Elusive Knowledge in the Early Modern Period: Transfer and Institutionalisation
PROF. DR. ULRIKE SCHNEIDER
(*Romance Studies, Freie Universität Berlin*)
- Bo6** Premodern Cosmological Formations of Knowledge: Institutionalised Metaphysics of Astronomy within Renaissance Academic Networks
PROF. DR. JÜRGEN RENN
(*History of Science, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science*)
- Bo7** The Anecdote as a Form of Knowledge Transfer
PROF. DR. MELANIE MÖLLER
(*Classics / Latin Philology, Freie Universität Berlin*)


PUBLIC RELATIONS

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- Ö** Showcasing Knowledge Transfer
DR. KRISTIANE HASSELMANN
(*Cultural Communication, Freie Universität Berlin*)
- In cooperation with the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin*


DOING

- 
- Co1** Transfer of Apocalyptic Knowledge in Antique Christianity
PROF. DR. CHRISTOPH MARKSCHIES
(*Protestant Theology / History of Christianity, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*)
- Co4** Epistemic Dissonances. Objects and Tools of Early Modern Acoustics
PROF. DR. VIKTORIA TKACZYK
(*History of Science / Cultural Studies / Theatre Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*)
- Co6** Transfer and Overlapping. Configurations of Knowledge in the Era of the Greek *Homines Novi* in the Ottoman Empire (1641–1730)
PROF. DR. MILTOS PECHLIVANOS
(*Modern Greek Studies, Freie Universität Berlin*)
- Co8** Teaching Early Modern Routines of Everyday Communication within Contexts of Linguistic Diversity
PROF. DR. HORST SIMON
(*Historical Linguistics / German Studies, Freie Universität Berlin*)
- Co9** Knowledge Transfer in the Context of Differentiation and Institutionalisation in 16th and 17th-Century Korea
PROF. DR. EUN-JEUNG LEE
(*Korean Studies, Freie Universität Berlin*)

INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE

- 
- INF** Corpora in Motion: Digital Exploitation of Epistemic Transfer in Premodern Cultures
PROF. DR. GYBURG UHLMANN /
DR. RAINER STOTZKA / DR. ALBERT GEUKES
(*Digital Humanities, Freie Universität Berlin and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology*)

GUEST PROJECT

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- GPo1** Manuscripts in Motion: Tools for Documenting, Analysing and Visualising the Dynamics of Textual Topographies
PROF. DR. ANDREA RAPP / DR. RAINER STOTZKA
(*Computer Philology / Computer Science, TU Darmstadt and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology*)

INTERDISCIPLINARY CONCEPT GROUPS


The Centre's members do not only collaborate in the research projects, but meet regularly to discuss methodological and theoretical questions. Three interdisciplinary concept groups take their cue from the specific phenomena investigated in the research projects and put new methods and theoretical approaches to the test. The concept groups also develop new lines of inquiry and play a seminal role in taking the overall research framework forward.

Concept Group V: **TRANSFER AND NEGATION**
Heads: ŞIRIN DADAŞ and DR. INGO SCHRAKAMP

Concept Group VI: **MEDIALITY AND MATERIALITY**
Heads: PROF. DR. ANNE EUSTERSCHULTE and CLAUDIA REUFER

Concept Group VII: **ECONOMIES OF KNOWLEDGE**
Heads: NIKOLAS PISSIS and DR. NORA SCHMIDT

ORGANISATION



Spokesperson: PROF. DR. GYBURG UHLMANN
Deputy Speaker: PROF. DR. ANDREW JAMES JOHNSTON
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