

WALTER BENJAMIN KOLLEG

**Interdisziplinäres Forschungs-
und Nachwuchsnetzwerk**

Freitag, 20. Januar 2017, ab 14:15 Uhr

2. Tag der Junior Fellows

Postdocs

Interdisziplinäres Forschungs- und Nachwuchsnetzwerk | IFN

Das Interdisziplinäre Forschungs- und Nachwuchsnetzwerk (IFN) am Walter Benjamin Kolleg ist eine integrierte Einrichtung zur Nachwuchsförderung auf den Stufen Doktoratsausbildung und Postdoc-Förderung. Dem IFN ist die Graduate School of the Humanities mit den drei interdisziplinären Doktoratsprogrammen Global Studies, Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies und Studies of Language and Society sowie ein Fellowship-Programm für Junior Fellows (Postdocs) zugeordnet. Im Herbstsemester 2016 hat das IFN fünf vielversprechenden Forschenden eine akademische Heimat während der Übergangsphase nach dem Doktoratsabschluss geboten. Ziel war die Erarbeitung eines Antrages für den nächsten Karriereschritt oder die nächste Qualifizierungsarbeit. Für das Frühjahr 2017 dürfen wir drei weitere Junior Fellows begrüßen.

Prof. Dr. Christine Göttler, Direktorin IFN
christine.goettler@ikg.unibe.ch

Dr. des. Mike Toggweiler, Koordinator IFN
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2. TAG DER JUNIOR FELLOWS

Veranstalter: Interdisziplinäres Forschungs- und Nachwuchsnetzwerk

Format: Postdoc-Veranstaltung

Ort: Universität Bern, Lerchenweg 36, 3012 Bern, Raum F013

Datum: 20. Januar 2017

Programm

14:15 Uhr Begrüssung und Einführung

Prof. Dr. Anselm Gerhard, Präsident WBKolleleg

Prof. Dr. Christine Göttler, Direktorin IFN

14:30 Uhr Language and Mediality (Chair: Prof. Dr. Yvette Bürki)

Dr. Florence Oloff

Smart Little Fingers: Gemeinsamer Smartphonegebrauch

Dr. Matthias Unterhuber

Generalisierungen in den Wissenschaften und diskriminatorischen Diskursen

Diskussion

15:30 Uhr Histories and Historiographies (Chair: Prof. Dr. Christine Göttler)

Dr. des. Benedetta Zucconi

Kulturelle Faszination oder diplomatische Strategie? Der Fall der deutschen Schlagerfilme der Nachkriegszeit zum Thema Italien

Dr. Mario Wimmer

Historischer Sinn als unzeitgemässe Erfahrung

Diskussion

16:30 Uhr Pause

16:45 Uhr Ethnographies (Chair: Prof. Dr. Nadia Radwan)

Dr. Sundar Henny

Can the Indian Speak? Ethnography in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, 1400-1600

Dr. Carl Rommel

Men and Time: Productivity, Temporality and Masculinity in the Wake of the 2011 Egyptian Revolution

Dr. Miriam Lay Brander

Relation, Trace and Accumulation: Digital Archives and Cultural Memory in the Caribbean

Diskussion

18:00 Uhr Apéro

Projekte

Dr. Sundar Henny

Navel of the World. Cross-Cultural Encounters at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, 1400-1600 (Project Title)

This project will capitalise on the uniqueness of a spot that, over many centuries, has produced a steady stream of writings from different cultures: the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. While Jerusalem pilgrimage has been studied intensely for many years now research has often been highly specialist, concentrating on a given culture rather than on their mutual encounters. The project will draw on those isolated studies and relate them to one another.

The problem will be framed in terms of intellectual history, which generally sees a comparative approach to religion emerging in Europe only in the 17th century. But a great many sources on and by Western pilgrims exist from over a much longer period. Questioning these sources, I will first establish how those cross-cultural encounters were represented in Europe, how they fed back into the social imaginary, and how they conditioned subsequent encounters. Then I will complement those findings with non-Western travelogues, most prominently from Greek Orthodox as well as – as far as they are available in translation – from other communities. This will allow to see cross-cultural encounters, notions of plurality, and emerging comparatist approaches to religion from a variety of cultural angles.



Sundar Henny is an historian of early modern Europe. His primary interests are cultural and intellectual history. His doctoral thesis (Basel, 2012) dealt with scribal and manuscript culture in seventeenth-century Zurich and has been published as *Vom Leib geschrieben: Der Mikrokosmos Zürich und seine Selbstzeugnisse im 17. Jahrhundert* (Cologne: Böhlau, 2016). Thereby, the focus is on material or non-hermeneutic functions of script. After his Ph.D. Sundar Henny worked as an editor and commentator of Isaak Iselin's *Geschichte der Menschheit* (1764), the first German work in the mode conjectural history. The edition-cum-commentary will appear in 2017. In 2015 and 2016 Sundar Henny was visiting scholar at the University of Cambridge and at Princeton University where he studied the early modern reception of the Greek geographer Strabo with a special focus on ethnography and the comparative study of religion. In his current project he studies the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem as an ethnological laboratory of the late medieval and early modern period. He is currently affiliated to the Historical Institute and a Junior Fellow at the Walter Benjamin Kolleg (University of Bern).

Dr. Miriam Lay Brander

Digital Archipelagos. Electronic Archives as Media of Cultural Memory in the Caribbean (Project Title)

In Caribbean societies questions of cultural heritage remain problematic due to a fragmented history which is not entirely recorded but rather at least partially preserved within fictional literature and oral traditions. This history is experienced differently by various social agents and has a direct impact on cultural heritage as a process of production, in- or exclusion, and storage of memories. The proposed project will investigate how new digital archives may create a basis for overcoming the problem of scattered and conflicted memories and offer new possibilities for defining Antillean cultural heritage. This project hopes to demonstrate that new digital archives may help satisfy the needs of diasporic memory communities, in part because they reflect the plurality of identities in their netlike character and thus make possible a relational, as opposed to a hierarchical, representation of Caribbean memories. Furthermore, they are able to bring together memory communities that go beyond the strict geographical limits of the Caribbean in a virtual space. The proposed project will analyse the material and social aspects of new digital archives in the West Indies from an interdisciplinary perspective by making recourse to digital and transcultural approaches in the field of Memory Studies as well as Caribbean memory theories.



Miriam Lay Brander studierte Spanische und Französische Literatur- und Sprachwissenschaft in Freiburg im Breisgau, Nizza und Konstanz. Sie ist Postdoktorandin am Exzellenzcluster „Kulturelle Grundlagen von Integration“ sowie wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin im Fachbereich Literaturwissenschaft an der Universität Konstanz. 2011 wurde sie mit einer inzwischen ins Spanische übersetzten Dissertation zu Raum- und Zeitkonzeptionen im Sevilla der Frühen Neuzeit promoviert. In ihrer Habilitationsschrift beschäftigte sie sich mit Funktionsweisen von Spruchformen in kolonialen und postkolonialen Kontexten französischer, spanischer und portugiesischer Sprache. Seit 2014 ist sie Leiterin des durch die Baden-Württemberg Stiftung geförderten Forschungsprojekts „Gattung und Globalisierung. Zur Hybridisierung von Gattungen in (post-)kolonialen Kontexten“. Derzeit ist sie Junior Fellow am Walter Benjamin Kolleg der Universität Bern.

Dr. Florence Oloff

Smartphones, smart communication: Mobile devices as objects in social interaction (Project Title)

This project aims to look at mobile technologies (especially smartphones and tablets) and their use within naturally occurring social interactions. More specifically, I wish to investigate the effects of these technological artefacts on face-to-face communicative conduct and linguistic structures. The increasing presence of mobile technology in everyday settings has generated large amounts of studies in various disciplines. In linguistics and communication sciences, most popular topics have been hybrid writing practices, the extension of social networks beyond spatial and temporal boundaries, or changes in social conduct and communicative norms in the public space. While communication by means of mobile technology and the text thereby produced (text messages, chats) has aroused a lot of scientific interest, the way in which mobile technologies intervene as physical objects in social interaction has been less investigated. Using ethnomethodological conversation analysis and a sequential, multimodal approach to video data, I therefore wish to study when and how exactly mobile technology is used, manipulated, shared, shown, hidden, stowed etc. Based on videotaped mundane settings, screen captures of the mobile device, and finegrained transcripts of talk and embodied conduct, I will show how mobile technologies are used moment-by-moment and how they are intertwined with the participation framework, the sequential structure of the talk, or specific linguistic and visual phenomena. This microanalytical approach to the actual use of mobile devices might usefully complement studies on reported practices and contribute to a sociological, linguistic, and anthropological understanding of this new cultural technique.



Florence Oloff studierte Romanistik, Osteuropastudien, Journalistik und Sprachwissenschaft in Hamburg und Lyon. 2009 hat Florence Oloff an der Ecole Normale Supérieure Lettres et Sciences Humaines (Lyon) und der Universität Mannheim in allgemeiner Sprachwissenschaft promoviert. Während und nach ihrer Dissertationsphase hat sie als wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin an verschiedenen Forschungsprojekten an der Universität Lyon und der Universität Basel mitgewirkt. Von 2014-2016 hat sie im Rahmen des Ambizione-Programmes des Schweizerischen Nationalfonds ihr eigenes Forschungsprojekt zu kooperativem Sprechen im Deutschen, Französischen und Tschechischen an der Universität Zürich durchgeführt. Als Spezialistin für Gesprächsforschung, Interaktionale Linguistik und Videoanalyse interessiert sie sich für Sprachgebrauch in der sozialen Interaktion in verschiedenen Sprachen und gesellschaftlichen Kontexten. In ihren bisherigen Arbeiten hat sie sich unter anderem mit dem Zusammenhang von Sprache und non-verbale Mittel, Mehrsprachigkeit am Arbeitsplatz sowie dem Gebrauch technischer Artefakte in der Interaktion auseinandergesetzt. Parallel zu ihrer Forschung hat sie als Lehrbeauftragte an den Universitäten Lyon 2 und Basel gearbeitet. Im Frühjahrssemester 2017 ist sie Junior Fellow am Walter Benjamin Kolleg der Universität Bern.

Dr. Carl Rommel

New Men for the New Nation: Examining Youth Development, Sports, and Masculine Ethics within the Post-Revolutionary Egyptian State Bureaucracy (Project Title)

This anthropological research project examines how the Egyptian state mobilizes sports to shape young men's ethics, politics, and bodies. Taking Egypt's recent revolutionary transformation and the ensuing revalorization of 'the Youth' as a point of departure, the research homes in on the revolutionary aftermath: an era marked by accelerated neoliberal restructuring and programs of intervention, designed to appropriately mould the youth into 'new men for the new nation'.

The project will primarily be based on ethnographic fieldwork at a handful of Cairo's 'youth centers' (marakiz al-shabab): a nationwide network of state-run cultural, educational and sporting institutions. The fieldwork will be supplemented by archive material about the history of Egypt's youth centers and analyzes of contemporary and historical media material about youth, health and sports in the state-owned magazine Al-Shabab (The Youth).

The project aims to answer the following question: what are the Egyptian government's policies and priorities vis-à-vis health, sport, youth and gender, and how have these changed over the last decade? How do policies translate into ethical codes of conduct, and how are they implemented on-the-ground, through sports activities among the youth? How do ethics link up with neoliberal ideals of transparency and professionalism? How do they shape masculine norms and performativity? And to what extent do young men accept or challenge the government's aims and ideals? The research builds on and contributes to the anthropologies of the state, ethics, critical events, and their aftermath, neoliberalism, bureaucracy, youth development, sports, and masculinity.



Carl Rommel is a social anthropologist specialized on contemporary Egypt. He completed dual degrees in Sociotechnical Engineering and the History of Science and Ideas at Uppsala University between 2001 and 2007. After a year of Arabic Studies in Cairo, he moved on to SOAS, University of London, where he earned his MA in Migration and Diaspora Studies (2009) and PhD in Social Anthropology (2015). Drawing on 20 months of fieldwork in Cairo, his dissertation explores shifts in the emotional politics of Egyptian football before and after the 2011 Revolution. After graduating in late 2015, he has been based at Zentrum Moderner Orient in Berlin. He is currently a Junior Fellow at the Walter Benjamin Kolleg (University of Bern).

Dr. Matthias Unterhuber

Project SciGen. Generics-Based Generalizations in the Sciences and Stereotypes (Project Title)

The project SciGen aims at a better understanding of generics-based generalizations in the sciences and contrasts them with stereotyped generalizations in nationalistic and racist discourses – a point that seems increasingly important given the rise of such discourses of recent years. Whereas generalizations as expressed by generics, such as "mammals give live birth" and "birds fly", are ubiquitous in all domains of human life, their semantics is not well understood. In particular, the recent debate in linguistics and philosophy of language casts doubt on whether such generics-based generalizations have meaning at all or whether they are nothing but heuristics that differ from stereotypes only in being more useful in guiding our actions. SciGen addresses this issue by pursuing the following two questions:

1. In which way do the sciences support generics-based generalizations?
2. In which way do generics-based generalizations supported by the sciences differ from such generalizations in nationalistic and racist discourses?

SciGen addresses questions one and two in interdisciplinary collaboration with biologists on the one hand and epidemiologists and experts on the rhetoric of nationalistic and racist discourses on the other. The contrast between generalizations in epidemiology and the above discourses is particularly fruitful; least of all due to the fact generalizations from epidemiology seem particularly troublesome in the linguistics and philosophy of language literature.



Matthias Unterhuber focuses on philosophy of science and logic. He has been awarded 2011 with the doctoral degree in Philosophy of Science (University of Düsseldorf) and holds two combined bachelor and master's degrees, one in Philosophy (University of Salzburg) and one in Psychology (University of Salzburg). Since then he held fellowships at the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Munich, and the University of Bern in addition to being a member of research groups by the DFG and the ESF. He is currently a Junior Fellow at the Walter Benjamin Kolleg (University of Bern).

Dr. Mario Wimmer

The Sense of the Past: Matters of Historical Time in the Modern Human and Social Sciences, ca. 1780-1980 (Project Title)

The project investigates the character of historical knowledge in the human and social sciences (Geisteswissenschaften) in the period of ca. 1780-1980. Other than existing scholarship on the history of historicism it goes beyond the paradigm of the formation of the nation state and instead focuses on foundational problematics of historical knowledge in the making. Emphasis is on matters of historical time and the emergence and transformation of a specific sense of the past, i.e. the importance of experience in intellectual practice. It combines methods and approaches from the history of science, historiography, and a cultural and institutional history of intellectual practice in order to provide an historical inquiry into the historical epistemology of the human and social sciences.

Its main fields of interest are: 1. the historical semantics of the notion of Geisteswissenschaften in international context; 2. the cultural and intellectual history of historical work; 3. the analysis of different epistemic surroundings of intellectual work in the humanities; 4. the relations between history and timelessness; and 5. the historical aporia of time travel. The overall goal of the project is to provide a contemporary history and theory of historical time based on an historical analysis of matters of historical time in intellectual practice of the human and social sciences since the late eighteenth century.



Mario Wimmer studied history, sociology, psychology and science studies in Berlin, Vienna, and Bielefeld, where he received his PhD in 2010. His first book *Archival Bodies: A History of Historical Imagination* (in German) was published by Konstanz UP in 2012 and was a finalist for the Opus Primum award for the best first book in German. 2010-2012 he was a Marie-Curie postdoctoral fellow at ETH Zürich and joined the faculty of the Department of Rhetoric at UC Berkeley in 2013. Previously he was junior fellow at the Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach and IFK Vienna and a visitor at the Kulturwissenschaftliches Kolleg Konstanz and the Max-Planck-Institut for the History of Science. In the summer of 2009 he was a visiting assistant professor at ECNU Shanghai. Currently he is finishing a book titled “*Ranke’s Blindness.*” His new project “*The Sense of the Past*” promises a comprehensive history of historical thought in the modern humanities. It is an inquiry into the importance of intellectual practice, i.e. historical work as “*Bildung*” thus providing the empirical basis for a history and theory of historical times. In Spring 2017 he will be a Junior Fellow at the Walter Benjamin Kolleg (University of Bern).

Dr. des. Benedetta Zucconi

**«Nimm mich mit ans himmelblaue Mittelmeer (wenn du Lire hast)»:
German Schlagerfilme as example of cultural exchange and diplomacy
in Italian-German relationships of the post-war period
(Project Title)**

The post-war period saw the emergence of a new film genre in West Germany, which portrayed Southern Europe, and Italy in particular, as idyllic, ideal, postcard-like settings. Music plays a central role in these comedies, which focus mainly on the songs and dances the actors perform as the plot unfolds. *Schlagerfilme*, as they became known in German, and especially their music, often revolved around the most trivial stereotypes about Italy, which is depicted as the country of sun, love, relax and happiness.

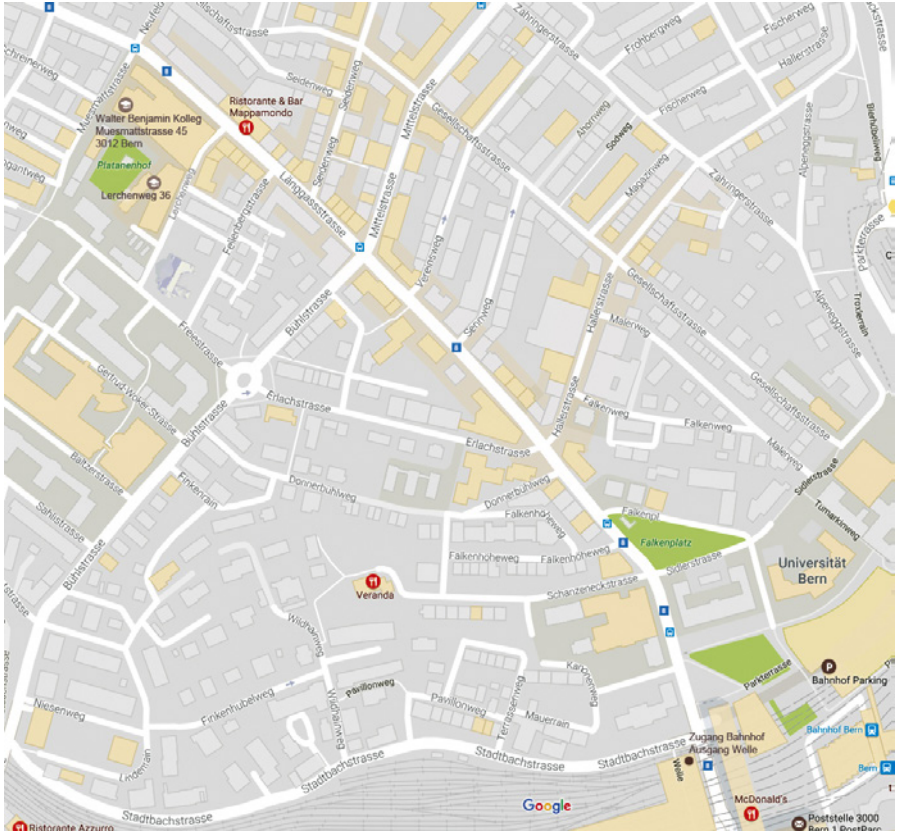
The history of these clichés can be traced back to a long tradition of travels around Italy, as described by writers and artists for centuries; in the post-war period, however, they acquired a new social dimension, as they ceased being confined to aristocratic and cultivated circles and were effectively incorporated into the imaginary of the middle class. Significantly, the same years also witnessed the growth of mass tourism, and its spreading throughout Western Europe. *Schlagerfilme* were tightly connected with this new trend in terms of their locations, but they also played on common dreams and desires of the time. In fact, by constantly featuring Italian beach resorts, monuments and tourist landmarks, they acted as *de facto* promoters of the *Bel Paese* as a holiday destination.

The aim of this research is to scratch beneath the surface of these light-hearted films, to observe the cultural impact and, first of all, the cultural premises which brought to the production of such films. The general interest for Italy could arise from a general fascination for the country as place for holidays, and be therefore a mechanical, passive response to the desires of the emerging middle class. Nonetheless, there could also have political reasons and agents behind the production of these films, which consequently could have played a more active role in directing the desires of German society towards a suitable object. In fact, *Schlagerfilme* could be embedded in the diplomatic strategies concerning the establishment of peaceful friendly relationships between Germany and Italy after WWII on one side, and the promotion of liberal Western values in contrast to those of the communist bloc on the other side.



Benedetta Zucconi studierte Musikwissenschaft in Cremona (Italien) und Bern und Musik in Venedig und Piacenza (Italien). Zu ihren Forschungsschwerpunkten gehören die Musikgeschichte und Musikanalyse des 20. Jahrhunderts, insbesondere die Geschichte der Tonaufnahme, das italienische Musiktheater und die italienischen Komponisten der Nachkriegszeit. Sie war Stipendiatin des Istituto Svizzero di Roma (2013-2014) und der Paul Sacher Stiftung Basel (2011). Derzeit ist sie Junior Fellow am Walter Benjamin Kolleg der Universität Bern.

Notizen



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Postdocs