



WALTER BENJAMIN KOLLEG

Interdisziplinäres Forschungs-
und Nachwuchsnetzwerk

Donnerstag, 29. September 2016, ab 17:00 Uhr

Kaleidoscopic Disciplinarity

Postdocs

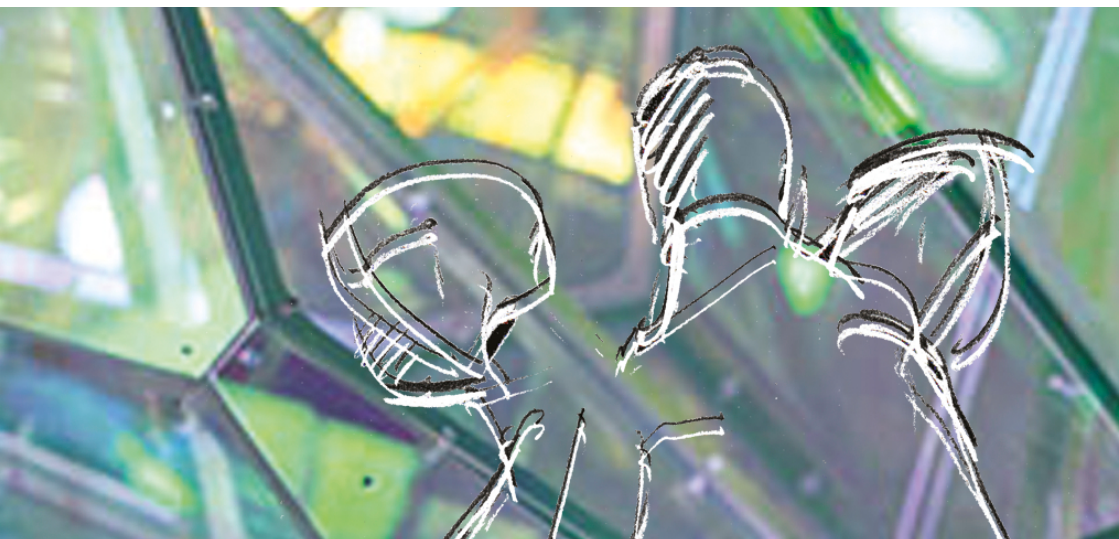
Interdisziplinäres Forschungs- und Nachwuchsnetzwerk | IFN

Das Interdisziplinäre Forschungs- und Nachwuchsnetzwerk (IFN) am Walter Benjamin Kolleg ist eine integrierte Einrichtung zur Nachwuchsförderung auf den Stufen Dokoratsausbildung und Postdoc-Förderung. Dem IFN ist die Graduate School of the Humanities mit den drei interdisziplinären Dokoratsprogrammen Global Studies, Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies und Studies of Language and Society sowie ein Fellowship-Programm für Junior Fellows (Postdocs) zugeordnet.

Im Herbstsemester 2016 bietet das IFN fünf vielversprechenden Forschenden eine akademische Heimat während der Übergangsphase nach dem Dokoratsabschluss. Ziel ist die Erarbeitung eines Antrages für den nächsten Karriereschritt oder die nächste Qualifizierungsarbeit.

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

Dr. des. Mike Toggweiler, Koordinator IFN: michael.toggweiler@wbkolleg.unibe.ch



Kaleidoscopic Disciplinarity

Veranstalter: Interdisziplinäres Forschungs- und Nachwuchsnetzwerk
Format: Postdoc-Veranstaltung
Ort: Unitobler, Muesmattstrasse 45, Forschungspool WBKolleg
Datum: 29. September 2016

Programm

17:00 Uhr Begrüssung

Unsere neuen Junior Fellows am IFN und Doktorierenden an der GSH
Prof. Dr. Christine Göttler

17:10 Uhr Präsentation der neuen Junior Fellows am IFN

Dr. des. Sundar Henny

Strabo and Enlightenment Anthropology

Dr. Miriam Lay Brander

Fragmented Memories. New Digital Archives as Media of Cultural Memories in the Carribean

Dr. Carl Rommel

New Men for the New Nation. Examining Youth Development, Sports, and Masculine Ethics within the Post-Revolutionary Egyptian State Bureaucracy

Dr. Matthias Unterhuber

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

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

17:45 Uhr Apéro



Strabo and Enlightenment Anthropology

The concept of 'Enlightenment' relies heavily on the denial or denigration of what went before. Although we have learned to distrust the rhetoric of novelty in even the most distinguished *philosophes* and *Aufklärers*, the extent of the debt of eighteenth-century scholars to their immediate predecessors remains relatively obscure in today's historiography. In this project, I want to make the case that what the Enlightenment owed the pre-Enlightenment period was not restricted to some general background of classical learning or peripheral eruptions of obsolete scholarship. Rather I argue that there exist strong continuities between seventeenth-century antiquarianism and eighteenth-century 'science of man' and scepticism. The case in point will be the classical tradition and especially the reception of the Greek geographer Strabo.

The abundant early modern reception of Strabo has so far largely been ignored by historians and classicists alike. The aim of this project is to go beyond simply the reception history of Strabo. To do this, Strabo's *Geography* serves as a kind of litmus test in order to identify the overarching coherence of the 'sciences' of man as well as religion. Both of these disciplines are firmly rooted in the seventeenth century during which scholars tackled each other over the historicity both of Homer and Moses.

To make the case for a powerful tradition even in core matters such as revelation and religion is not to claim immutability. Indeed, even if the readings and arguments drawn from Strabo would largely stay the same, their function shifted dramatically over time. Inverting the famous proverb, it could be said that the more reception stayed the same, the more it changed.

Sundar Henny ist Frühneuzeithistoriker und hat in Basel und Freiburg i. B. Geschichte und Klassische Philologie studiert. Er wurde in Basel mit einer Arbeit über Selbstzeugnisse und die Materialität von Schriftgut im 17. Jahrhundert promoviert. Derzeit beschäftigt er sich mit der Rezeption des griechischen Geographen Strabon im 18. Jahrhundert. Sundar Henny forschte an den Universitäten von Cambridge und Princeton. Er lehrt gegenwärtig an der Universität Basel und unterrichtete mehrere Jahre am Gymnasium Liestal.

Dr. Miriam Lay Brander



Fragmented Memories. New Digital Archives as Media of Cultural Memories in the Carribean

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 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 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.

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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“.



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

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 month 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.



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

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.

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



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 been 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 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).

Assoziierte Junior Fellows ab Herbst 2016

Dr. Irmtraud Huber



Timescapes of Victorian Poetry

The 19th century saw radical changes in culture, technology, and science, all of which affected the way time was conceptualised and experienced. My research project aims for a better understanding of the nature of a particularly Victorian experience of time and the way it is represented in literature. More specifically, the analysis focuses on Victorian poetry and asks for the ways in which changing concepts of time manifest themselves in poetic forms, contents and ways of production. At the same time, reading poetry against the backdrop of 19th-century renegotiations of concepts of time opens new perspectives on canonical texts. My project will complement such readings with wider textual research, using full-text digital databases in order to identify broader thematic and formal concerns and to compare canonical with non-canonical poetry. In this, class and gender differences will come into view, as well as the impact of different media of publication. My research thus addresses the historical and cultural specificity of temporal experience, and will not only further our understanding of the Victorians and their poetic production, but also throw light on the historical development of temporal practices which continue tacitly to mould cultural, social and material structures today.

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Irmtraud Huber studied Comparative Literature, English and Theatre Studies in Munich. In spring 2013, she completed her PhD with a thesis on "Reconstructive Dreams: A Pragmatic Fantastic after Postmodernism", which was awarded with the Helene-Richter Prize of the Deutscher Anglistenverband. With support from the SNSF, she has held Visiting Fellowships at Columbia University, New York, the University of Cambridge and Queen Mary College, University of London. She is an Affiliated Postdoctoral Member of Clare Hall, Cambridge and an Associated Postdoctoral Fellow of the Walter Benjamin Kolleg.



Das christliche Kultbild in der Neuen Welt: Hybride Sakralobjekte zur Zeit der frühen europäischen Expansion

Dieses kunsthistorische Habilitationsprojekt untersucht die christlichen Kultbilder im Neuspanien der frühen Kolonialzeit hinsichtlich ihrer grundlegenden bildtheoretischen Voraussetzungen sowie der Ursachen für den Erfolg ihrer Verehrung. Dazu soll eine Auswahl kulturhistorisch prägender Bildexemplare in Bezug auf ihre Genese, die Merkmale ihrer Verehrung und ihre Legendentradition der Analyse unterzogen werden. Insbesondere soll ausgelotet werden, ob sich der Erfolg des christlichen Kultbildes in Neuspanien auf gewisse Konvergenzen zwischen der christlichen Bildkultur der katholischen Reform und der Bildpraxis der präkolumbischen Kulte, die auf dem mesoamerikanischen Gebiet vorherrschend waren, zurückführen lässt. Zu den christlichen Kultbildern, welche die Missionare einführten und deren Verehrung bereits im 16. Jahrhundert nachgewiesen werden kann, zählen das bis heute wichtigste christliche Gnadenbild des gesamten amerikanischen Kontinents, die Jungfrau von Guadalupe in Mexiko City, einige der sogenannten schwarzen Christusfiguren, denen man bis heute im mesoamerikanischen Raum allenthalben begegnet, sowie der Niño, das seit dem 16. Jahrhundert verehrte Kultbild des Jesuskindes im Franziskanerkloster San Bernardino de Sena im heute zu Mexiko City zählenden Xochimilco.

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Dr. Raphaële Preisinger hat Kunstgeschichte, Mittelalterliche und Neuere Geschichte sowie Philosophie an der Universität Bonn studiert. Sie war von 2003 bis 2006 Promotionsstipendiatin des Graduiertenkollegs der DFG "Bild - Körper - Medium. Eine anthropologische Perspektive" und wurde 2009 an der Staatlichen Hochschule für Gestaltung Karlsruhe im Fach Kunstwissenschaft und Medientheorie promoviert. Von 2009 bis 2016 war sie wissenschaftliche Assistentin im Fach Kunstgeschichte an der Universität Bern. Derzeit ist sie mit ihrem Habilitationsprojekt Forschungsstipendiatin der Gerda Henkel Stiftung.

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INTERDISZIPLINÄRES FORSCHUNGS- UND NACHWUCHSNETZWERK

Muesmattstrasse 45
3012 Bern

www.wbkolleg.unibe.ch



Postdocs