

Graduate School "History of Knowledge"

Subject

The members of the graduate school ask: How is knowledge generated, how is it negotiated, and what claims to validity and power relations are tied to it?

- In their research, the members of the graduate school "History of Knowledge" examine **"knowledge" in all its historical, cultural and social facets.**
- Methodologically, the research draws on approaches such as the study of personal accounts, intellectual history, research into media, spatial and cultural technologies, material culture studies, historical epistemology, praxeology and postcolonial-inspired theories.
- The study examines **various forms of knowledge** – ranging from everyday knowledge through administrative and scholarly knowledge to scientific knowledge.
- It also focuses on its **implicit and explicit manifestations**, as well as the media, practices and norms through which knowledge is produced, transmitted and circulated.

Current Projects

- Trading Animals / Animals that act. Human-Animal-Relations between the Horn of Africa, Germany and the World (*Annika Dörner*)
- The Scientific Age in the Province. Research, Collecting and Presenting as Social Practices around 1900 (*Anna-Maria Hünnes*)
- Bruno Hassenstein's Works on Japan. A History of Knowledge Between Japanese Studies and Cartography (1879–1887) (*Patrick Müller*)
- Researching Swahili. Africanist Linguistics in Germany, Britain, and East Africa, 1843-1945 (*Florian Balbiani*)
- The Socialist Scale. Cartographic Production of the VEB Hermann Haack, 1955-1989 (*Dominic Keyßner*)
- Politics in Motion. German Expeditions in the Sudan, 1860–74 (*Albert Feierabend*)
- Pre-astronautics as a popular culture of knowledge from 1968 to the end of the Cold War (*Erik Kaiser*)
- Manès Sperber - a life between Judaism, Marxism and individual psychology. A biography and analysis of his work (*Sebastian Rippl*)
- Everyday Experiences of Women who love Women - Psychiatrisation of Lesbians in the GDR (*Anna Domdey*)

Program

- **Regular Colloquia:** Joint discussion of current research projects through interdisciplinary exchange
- **Thematic Excursions:** Visits to relevant research institutions (Jena, Leipzig, Berlin, etc.)
- **Further Professional Development:** Support in acquiring cross-disciplinary skills for academic and non-academic career paths
- **Teaching Practice & Organisational Experience:** Opportunity to lead courses and workshops

Organisation & Membership

- **PhD students, postdocs and senior scholars conduct joint research into questions of knowledge**
- Early-career researchers at the University of Erfurt may apply for membership at any time without formalities
- The graduate school is supported by the Faculty of Arts at the University of Erfurt, the Department of History, the Research College for Transcultural Studies / Perthes Collection (FKTS) and the Gotha Research Centre

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