

International Workshop organized by the Department of the History of Science at IBZ

Michaelisstr. 38
99084 Erfurt

The triumph of intelligence in the late 19th and early 20th century made it one of the most popular research subjects in the history of science. Artificial and swarm intelligence, the sociological critique of the 'I.Q. ideology,' the racism of intelligence research, and the role of the discourse on intelligence in popular culture have been the central issues in recent scholarship.

Our workshop aims to change the focus of these debates. We intend to discuss not intelligence research itself but the social and political conditions that allowed intelligence to advance to its leading position in the scientific agenda, as well as the constellation of developments in both sciences and humanities that prepared its career. Our idea is to explore this phenomenon in relation to central 'sociological' categories such as social grouping, morality, stability, and normality. We will also examine how the scientific authority of intelligence influenced not only conservative, meritocratic, and racist discourses, but also socialist, anarchist and other social theories orientated towards social inclusion. Thus, the questions of social and political grouping rather than the traditional perspective of differential psychology will come to the fore in our discussion. We kindly invite you to join our discussion in person or online!

Photo by David von Becker

UNIVERSITÄT
ERFURT

Philosophische
Fakultät

PECEE
RESEARCH INITIATIVE



Walter
Benjamin-
Programm

DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

To register for this conference either in person or online, please write an e-mail to: wissenschaftsgeschichte@uni-erfurt.de (Zoom link will be sent to you)

For any other inquiries, please contact: aleksei.lokhmatov@uni-erfurt.de

WHY INTEL LIGEN CE?

FEB 22ND - 23RD

The political and social
roots of a scientific object

22 February 2024, Thursday

8:00 – 8:45 | Registration

8:45 – 9:00 | Welcome speech & introduction

Bernhard Kleeberg & Alexej Lochmatow, University of Erfurt

9:00 – 11:00 | Panel 1

Dirk Schuck, University of Erfurt // The Moral Intelligence of Civil Society as a Collective Endeavor: The Sentimentalist Idea of Social Control

Alexej Lochmatow, University of Erfurt // 'Intelligence' as a Form of 'Sociological Thinking': Nineteenth Century Concepts of Collective Knowledge

Jörg Hügel, Leuphana University Lüneburg // Moderation

11:00 – 11:15 | Coffee break

11:15 – 13:15 | Panel 2

Laurens Schlicht, University of Saarland [ONLINE] // Intelligence and Morality: On the Psychological Construction of the Interdependence of 'Moral' and 'Intellectual' Capacities, Germany, 1910–1930

Anne D. Peiter, Université de la Réunion [ONLINE] // On the Greatness of Intelligence and Wretchedness of Stupidity: Reflections on ethnic stereotypes in German and Belgian Colonial Literature and its Consequences for the Genocide against the Tutsi in 1994

Johanna Hügel, University of Erfurt // Moderation

13:15 – 14:15 | Lunch

14:15 – 16:15 | Panel 3

Tomás Irish, Swansea University // Saving Intellectual Life: Humanitarianism and Reconstruction after the First World War

Alexander Dmitriev, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne // Literacy, Reading, Intelligence: Quantitative Dimensions of the Ukrainian National Question in the Late Nineteenth Century and the First Decades of the Twentieth Century

Jan Surman, Czech Academy of Sciences // Moderation

16:15 – 16:30 | Coffee break

16:15 – 18:15 | Panel 4

Susanne Schregel, University of Copenhagen // Distinguishing animals and humans: Perspectives on animal intelligence (Great Britain, Germany, 1870-1900)

Andy Byford, Durham University // Intelligence on the Human-Animal Boundary in the Early 1930s' Soviet Union

Bernhard Kleeberg, University of Erfurt // Moderation

19:00 | Dinner

23 February 2024, Friday

9:00 – 11:00 | Panel 1

Hailian Chen, University of Bochum // Approaching Human Capital: From a German missionary Ernst Faber (1839–1899) to the Regrouping of Intellectuals and Skillful Persons in Qing China's Educational Reforms

Şeyma Afacan, University of Kirklareli // If Turks were smart indeed? Class, Race, and Intelligence Testing in the early Republic of Turkey

Karin Reichenbach, GWZO Leipzig // Moderation

11:00 – 11:15 | Coffee break

11:15 – 13:15 | Panel 2

Nora Binder, University of Konstanz // From IQ to

Competence as a Key to a 'Successful Life'

Agnes Bauer, University of Potsdam // Facets of Practical Intelligence in Discourses of German Vocational Psychology, 1920s-1940s

Verena Lehmbrock, University of Erfurt // Moderation

13:15 – 14:15 | Lunch

14:15 – 15:15 | Panel 3

Maxim Miroshnichenko, Global Center for Advanced Studies, Dublin // The Metabolic Recursivity: Reflexion in Non-Neuromimetic Machines?

Dinah Pfau, University of Luxemburg // Steinbuch's Matrices: Epistemology of an Artificial Neural Network

Serhii Zhabin, The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine // Moderation

15:15 – 15:30 | Coffee break

15:30 – 16:30 | Panel 4

Rudolf Seising, Deutsches Museum, Munich // Intelligence and Information: a Historical Conceptualisation

Bernhard Kleeberg, University of Erfurt // Moderation

16:30 – 17:00 | Final Discussion

Dietlind Hüchtken, University of Vienna & Alexej Lochmatow, University of Erfurt // Moderation