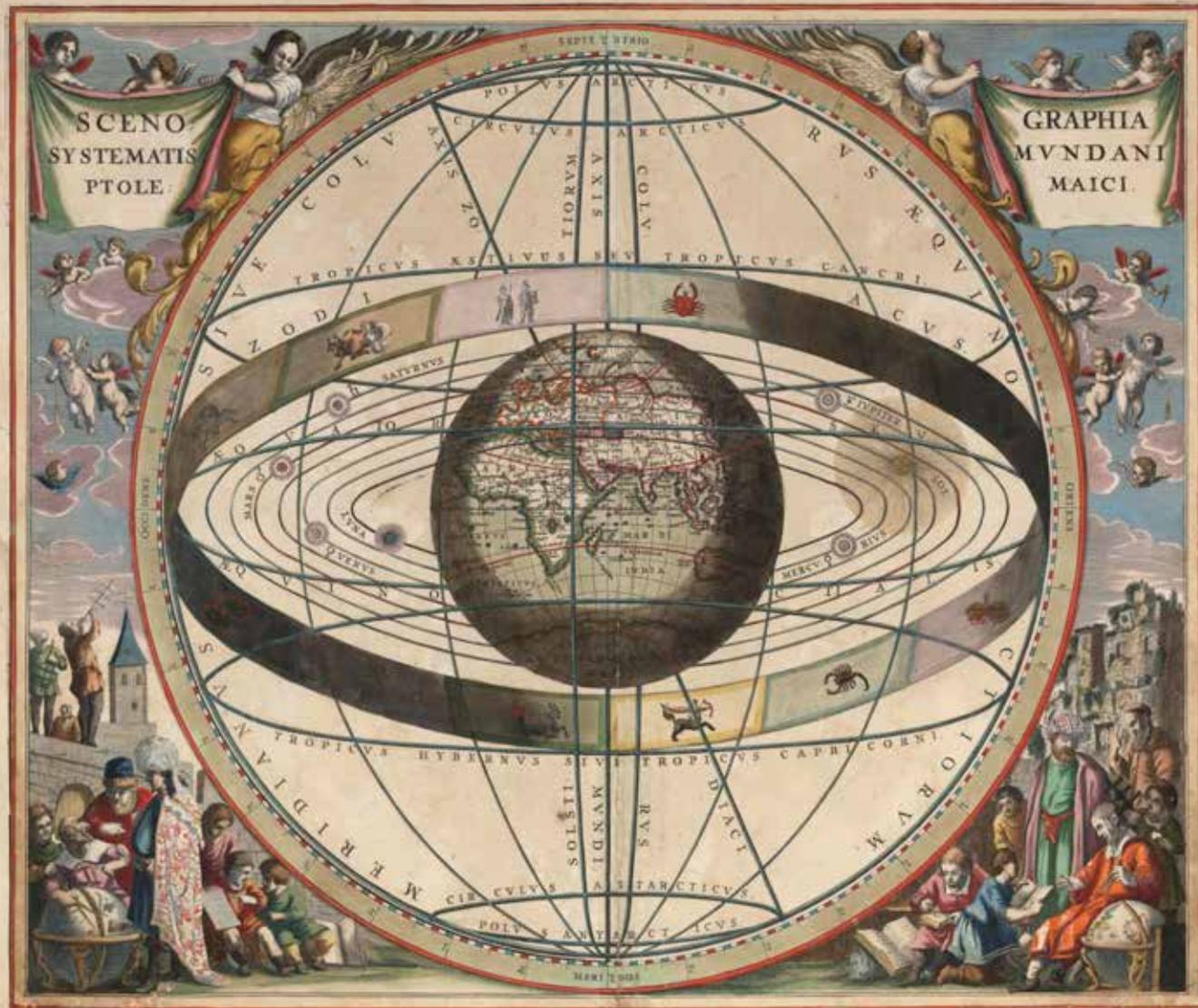




Foto: Max Weber (© BAdW München)



Organisation:

Prof. Dr. Martin Mulsow | Max-Weber-Kolleg Erfurt/
Forschungszentrum Gotha

PD Dr. Benjamin Steiner | Max-Weber-Kolleg Erfurt

Conference held under the auspices of the Research Group “Religious Individualization in Historical Perspective” and Forschungszentrum Gotha

Picture: Andreas Cellarius: Scenographia Systematis Mundani Ptolemaici, Amsterdam 1708

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DFG

UNIVERSITÄT ERFURT

Towards a Global History of Ideas

Conference at the Max-Weber-Kolleg Erfurt
7 – 9 July 2016

Venue: Augustinerkloster Erfurt

In recent years a series of academic disciplines concerned with cultures of knowledge have been “globalizing”, i.e. reacting to globalization with a broadening of their agenda. We speak today of a “global history of science”, “world antiquarianism”, “world philology”, “global art history”, as well as of a “global intellectual history”, the latter inspired, among others, by Christopher Bayly. Less clear, however, is what this broadening should look like if it is to avoid an accumulative character, merely aggregating numerous national traditions, nor is it clear what difficulties arise from this.

The conference will concentrate on three aspects: (1) Experience with the globalisation of the study of cultures of knowledge and intellectual history, problems, institutional ramifications, and funding. This concerns especially the consequences of reaching one’s own language and cultural barriers, e.g. when dealing with China, India, or the Islamic world and a greater dependence on collaboration with colleagues, co-authorship, and joint-papers at conferences. Methodological concerns need also be addressed: How can one avoid sacrificing the high standards set by an intellectual history concentrating on well-defined and narrow contexts? (2) Unique challenges concerning the globalisation of research into pre-modern history, i.e. in dealing with the period before the acute globalisation of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. How are the “entanglements” of this early stage of world-wide interdependence to be analysed? Are post-colonial premises of entangled history really effective here? Are there here differences vis-à-vis the methodological approach to modern history? What is the relation of a “history of concepts” (Begriffsgeschichte) to a social history of ideas, and to the integration of images? How does the broadening of the spatial horizon relate to the broadening of the temporal horizon in the early modern period? (3) The reciprocal interactions between the diverse spheres of a globalised history of knowledge. How do the different broadening endeavours in varied fields like philology, art history, history of science, or history of philosophy relate to each other? Does a “global history of knowledge” of a kind emerge here or are these rather specific insights in given fields which shed light on research in others? Would a better understanding of “entanglement” afford us greater insight into agents’ individualising experiences? Does the comparison of similar traditions (e.g. antiquarianism in Europe and China or case descriptions as a pattern of thought in different cultures) lend itself for innovative questions about *longue durée* influences and relativizations?

Programme

Thursday, 7 July 2016

Chair: Michael Stausberg (Erfurt/Bergen)

(1) What is Global Intellectual History?

13:00 | Martin Mulsow (Erfurt/Gotha): Categories for a Global Intellectual History

14:00 | Sebastian Conrad (Berlin): “What is Global” in Global Intellectual History?

15:00 | Coffee Break

15:30 | Jürgen Renn (Berlin): The Globalization of Knowledge in History - the Perspective of Historical Epistemology

16:30 | Hans Medick (Göttingen): A Global Turn? Microhistory in Extension

18:00 | Keynote Lecture: Jan Assmann (Konstanz): Revelation

Dinner for the Participants

Friday, 8 July 2016

Chair: Jörg Rüpke (Erfurt)

(2) Global Intellectual History and Global History: Interconnections

09:00 | Iris Schröder (Erfurt): Menelik’s Map and Boundary Making in Late Nineteenth Century Ethiopia: A Case for a History of Ideas in a Euro-African Setting?

10:00 | Benjamin Steiner (Frankfurt/Erfurt): The Place of Sub-Saharan Africa in a Global History of Ideas from an Early Modern Perspective

11:00 | Coffee Break

11:30 | Dominic Sachsenmaier (Göttingen): Hierarchies of Knowledge and the Perspective of a Global History of Knowledge

12:30 | Lunch

Chair: Benjamin Steiner (Erfurt)

(3) The Pre-Modern Era: Transcultural Transmission of Ideas

13:30 | Stefan Hansß (Cambridge): Entangled Imagery. Intellectual History and Visual Culture

14:30 | Carlo Ginzburg (Pisa): Ethnophilology: Two Case Studies

15:30 | Coffee Break

16:00 | Kapil Raj (Paris): Networks of Knowledge, or Spaces of Circulation? Conceptualizing Early-Modern Knowledge-Making and Exchange

17:00 | Anna Akasoy (New York): The Classical Heritage of Eurasia: What Constitutes a Heritage?

18:00 | Guided Tour through Erfurt (Reiner Prass)

Dinner for the Participants

Saturday, 9 July 2016

Chair: Gunnar Folke Schuppert (Berlin)

(4) Images, Objects, Ideas: Dimensions of Global Intellectual History

09:00 | Knud Haakonssen (Erfurt/St. Andrews): John Pocock’s “Barbarism and Religion” – A Global Intellectual History?

09:30 | Paola Molino (München): All You Can Do and All You Can’t Do with Library Catalogues: Dangerous Tools for Globalizing Pre-Modern Local Bibliographies

10:30 | Coffee Break

11:00 | Gerhard Wolf (Florenz): Images, Objects, Ideas. Considerations on Global or Transcultural Art Histories

12:00 | Final Discussion

End: ca. 13:00