

Historische Wissensforschung

Edited by Caroline Arni, Stephan Gregory, Bernhard Kleeberg, Andreas Langenohl, Simon Teuscher, and Robert Suter †

The *Historische Wissensforschung* (*Studies in the History of Knowledge*) series presents research on cultural constellations from early modern history up to the current day in which the focus is on knowledge itself. Its interest lies in analysing the origins and stabilisation, the transformation and deconstruction of knowledge in concrete practices. In short, it is interested in everything that makes knowledge recognisable as knowledge. The series thus promotes historical epistemology as well as more recent praxeological approaches in science studies and social studies of knowledge. It focuses in particular on the history of the humanities, the social sciences and human sciences, presenting critical and concrete studies which make use of the theoretical-methodological instruments of historiography, sociology and anthropology as well as media and literary studies. Monographs, habilitations or doctoral theses, forgotten or difficult to access works pertaining to the sociology and history of knowledge will be published in this series alongside edited volumes and essays.

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Binder, Nora

Kurt Lewin und die Psychologie des Feldes

Zur Genese der Gruppendynamik

Volume 17
2023. VIII, 323 pages.

ISBN 9783161590986
hardcover 59,00 €

ISBN 9783161590993
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With his field theoretical experiments, renowned social psychologist Kurt Lewin (1890–1947) became a pioneer of democratic social engineering. In her book on Lewin, Nora Binder reconstructs the history and applications of group dynamics, which Kurt Lewin founded and which is still influential today.

Keller, David

Person und Form

Eine Medien- und Wissensgeschichte der Persönlichkeitsdiagnostik

Volume 16
2022. XII, 481 pages.

ISBN 9783161610639
hardcover 89,00 €

ISBN 9783161610646
eBook PDF

What is personality? As an appealing cultural concept, it developed great productive power within the psychological sciences particularly in the first half of the 20th century. But which set of tools enabled researchers to determine and diagnose personality?

In this study, David Keller reckons with the diversity of media and techniques that played a critical role in legitimizing 'personality' as a stable concept for the human sciences. By reconstructing research practices and diagnostic procedures, and by taking popular discourses into account, the work illustrates how the search for personality generated new knowledge and provoked further questions. David Keller shows how 'personality' became a continuing challenge for the human sciences.

Selbstsein als Sich-Wissen?

Zur Bedeutung der Wissensgeschichte für die Historisierbarkeit des Subjekts

Herausgegeben von Sandra Janßen und Thomas Alkemeyer

Volume 15
2021. X, 274 pages.

ISBN 9783161590337
hardcover 74,00 €

ISBN 9783161608131
eBook PDF

From the beginning, the 'subject' was a more complex theoretical figure than postmodernism, which declared it dead, would have conceded; in the various human sciences, this figure has a checkered history. But does this history also have significance for how historical subjects experience themselves, that is, for a history of the subject?

Survey of contents

Thomas Alkemeyer: Vorwort – *Sandra Janßen:* Einleitung – *Hans-Jörg Rheinberger:* Vom Subjekt des Wissens aus der Perspektive der Historischen Epistemologie – *Jakob Tanner:* *Anthropos* revisited. Subjektivierungsformen und Historische Anthropologie – *Daniel Wrana:* Wusste Achill von sich, dass er frei war? Zur Problematisierung des Selbstwissens in der Kulturgeschichte der Subjektivität – *Christiane Frey:* Selbstwissen und Selbstsorge. Anmerkungen zu Kants Laune – *Katja Rothe:* Rhythmus und Neurasthenie. Sich-Selbst-Wissen um 1900 – *Laurens Schlicht:* Von der Gleichheit zur Regulierung von Ungleichheiten. Ein Beitrag zu Aspekten der französischen Humanwissenschaften und der Entstehung einer administrativ-medizinischen Expertenkultur um 1795–1830 – *Malte Griesse:* Leibeigenschaft am Pranger. Subjektivierung und Emanzipation in russischen Lebensbeschreibungen der Aufklärungszeit – *Sandra Janßen:* Vom Bewegtwerden durch Musik. Stationen einer psycho-politischen Denkfigur als Leitbild 'totalitärer' Subjektivierung – *Jens Elberfeld:* Psychowissen, therapeutische Praktiken und die Genealogie des reflexiven Selbst

Cain, Friedrich

Wissen im Untergrund

Praxis und Politik klandestiner Forschung im besetzten Polen (1939–1945)



Volume 14
2021. X, 534 pages.

ISBN 9783161589058
hardcover 84,00 €
ISBN 9783161589065
eBook PDF

Scientific research is bound to particular locations, times and practices. So what happens when its usual arsenal of instruments, books and technical equipment is disbanded? Friedrich Cain takes the case of Polish researchers working undercover during the German occupation of 1939–1945 to answer this question. Picking up on the socioscientific gaze that focussed itself on war-time conditions for Warsaw's inhabitants and society, he analyses the experimental systems of typhus fever research in Lemberg and a secret study on hunger in the Warsaw Ghetto, before describing attempts to organise research in physics. Thus revealed by the author is how practices and processes in the 'laboratory situation of war' were either replaced, reconfigured or energised, as well as the extent to which ideas of scientific neutrality were politicized.

Schlicht, Laurens

tabula rasa

Die Erforschung des menschlichen Geistes im Kontext der Société des observateurs de l'homme, ca. 1780–1830

Volume 13
2020. XV, 462 pages.

ISBN 9783161588808
hardcover 79,00 €
ISBN 9783161588815
eBook PDF

In 1799, the Société des observateurs de l'homme – the Society of the Observers of Man – was set up with the aim of establishing a »comparative anthropology«. Laurens Schlicht investigates just how humans became research objects and which short-term transformations they were subjected to both in this empirical research role and as political actors.

Saladin, Irina

Karten und Mission

Die jesuitische Konstruktion des Amazonasraums im 17. und 18. Jahrhundert

Volume 12
2020. XX, 390 pages.

ISBN 9783161588600
hardcover 84,00 €
ISBN 9783161588617
eBook PDF

Maps of the Amazon region stemmed for a long time principally from the Jesuit missionaries who explored and described it. But just how great was their influence on this drawn knowledge? Irina Saladin seeks answers and shows that early modern maps of the area were in very many respects influenced by the missionary, trans-cultural and political practices of their producers.

Epistemische Tugenden

Zur Geschichte und Gegenwart eines Konzepts

Hrsg. v. Andreas Gelhard, Ruben Hackler u. Sandro Zanetti

Volume 11
2019. VII, 313 pages.

ISBN 9783161540721
hardcover 74,00 €
ISBN 9783161554636
eBook PDF

Epistemic virtues are qualities of the researching subject that are viewed in epistemic cultures as a requirement for the production, mediation, or acquisition of knowledge. They cannot be reduced to an abstract ought, as ethics commissions or political movements often bring to the attention of the humanities. The methodological generation of knowledge would hardly be possible if there were not cognitive virtues such as patience, awareness, precision, intuition, truthfulness, curiosity, rigor, or reliability to stabilize the precarious process of knowledge procurement and guide it in a certain direction. This volume deals with epistemic virtues from history of the humanities, philosophical, media-, and literary studies perspectives. A focal point is the relationship between scientific and socio-cultural or moral norms.

Latour, Bruno

Aramis

oder Die Liebe zur Technik

Mit einem neuen Vorwort v. Bruno Latour und einem Nachwort v. Henning Schmidgen

Übers. v. Gustav Roßler

Volume 10
2018. XV, 319 pages.

ISBN 9783161539954
hardcover 74,00 €

ISBN 9783161561726
eBook PDF

Based on numerous interviews, technical reports and documentation, Bruno Latour traces the collapse of a large public transportation system project – the Personal Rapid Transit system named Aramis – in Paris. Latour's analysis of Aramis' history merges science and technology studies with the narrative form of a detective novel. The various actors in this story of a highly complex human-object-system – engineers, circuit layouts, engines, prototypes, rail track systems etc. – are all given an equal voice in a way that is of exemplary value for understanding the Actor-network theory. With the first German translation of this now classical study, the book series *Historische Wissensforschung* (*Studies in the History of Knowledge*) launches its series »Under the Radar«, which presents and contextualizes forgotten or hard-to-reach texts from the history of science.

Kreuder-Sonnen, Katharina

Wie man Mikroben auf Reisen schickt

Zirkulierendes bakteriologisches Wissen und die polnische Medizin 1885–1939

Volume 9
2018. XI, 352 pages.

ISBN 9783161550645
hardcover 74,00 €

ISBN 9783161554469
eBook PDF

Knowledge does not travel on its own. Bacteriology's laboratory practice depended on comprehensive logistics to be mobilized. Katharina Kreuder-Sonnen follows Polish physicians in their efforts to make microbes travel. Inscriptions of laboratory techniques and the mobilization of laboratory devices were important tools in this process. The history of circulating bacteriological knowledge connects Polish doctors with research institutions from Berlin to Tunis, integrates them into a global history of knowledge and leads us to rethink the categories of center and periphery. At the same time, the study tells us the story of how bacteriological knowledge was introduced to medical practice, first in the Kingdom of Poland and then in the Polish state founded in 1918 – a story which can only be encompassed by taking the practices and materialities of bacteriological laboratory practices into account. The study was awarded the 2016 dissertation prize of the German Society for the History of Medicine, Natural Sciences and Technology.

Tanner, Ariane

Die Mathematisierung des Lebens

Alfred James Lotka und der energetische Holismus im 20. Jahrhundert

Volume 8
2017. IX, 318 pages.

ISBN 9783161544910
hardcover 74,00 €

ISBN 9783161544927
eBook PDF

To mathematize the world and thereby explain it: in 1925, the natural scientist and actuary Alfred James Lotka completed his monograph »Elements of Physical Biology«, which interpreted all processes on planet earth energetically and formalised them. The result was a mathematically precise and at the same time holistic world view of interacting dynamic systems that humans should influence rationally. Ariane Tanner deciphers »Elements of Physical Biology« as an interdisciplinary synopsis of its time, denoting it as a key work of the 20th century's narrative of energetic holism. At the same time, she tells the story of Lotka as a largely non-academic researcher and scientific 'interventor' who slipped through conventional reception models.

Gafner, Lina

Schreibarbeit

Die alltägliche Wissenspraxis eines Bieler Arztes im 19. Jahrhundert

Volume 7
2016. X, 290 pages.

ISBN 9783161549083
hardcover 74,00 €

ISBN 9783161549090
eBook PDF

How did doctors in the 19th century come to be the indispensable experts that they were before the advent of bacteriology and 'modern medicine'? And what role did paperwork have to play in this? The Bieler doctor and politician Cäsar Bloesch (1804–1863) left a legacy of 55 medical practice records. Consultations, testimonies, assessments and vaccination charts, but also weather observations and the populace's state of health were all put to paper. Taking these written records, Lina Gafner shows how medical book-keeping fits into the context of political conflicts, professional policy, scientific controversies and bourgeois-male self-conception. For the first time, it becomes clear how medical thought and practice in the 19th century were influenced by the demands of a modern administrative state, and how doctors attained a central place in government and society through their paperwork.

Ladewig, Rebekka

Schwindel

Eine Epistemologie der Orientierung

Volume 6
2016. VIII, 373 pages.

ISBN 9783161547683
hardcover 64,00 €

ISBN 9783161547690
eBook PDF

Orientation is a matter of perspective. Within the framework of historical epistemology, Rebekka Ladewig develops this perspective in theoretical and experimental scenes of dizziness. These cover the 17th and 18th centuries, to the sensory-physiological experimentalisation between 1800 and 1900, right up to the technical milieus of the early 20th century with their instrument-based techniques and the material culture of inducing dizziness. Michael Polanyi's concept of tacit knowing is the theoretical starting and end point of this analysis, shifting attention from the theory of science to its fringes, to the personal, local and practical conditions of knowledge processes that inherently evade the traditional theory of science.

Bauer, Julian

Zellen, Wellen, Systeme

Eine Genealogie systemischen Denkens, 1880–1980

Volume 5
2016. XII, 360 pages.

ISBN 9783161546792
sewn paper 64,00 €

ISBN 9783161546808
eBook PDF

The history of systems theory does not start with the rise of cybernetics in the post-war 20th century. It rather took off in the late 19th century's now largely forgotten organismic sociology. Authors like Talcott Parsons or Niklas Luhmann can't, however, be reduced solely to a single line of descent. Julian Bauer outlines the plural origins of systemic ideas by portraying their broad foundation in different strands of holist thinking and thus provincialises systems theory. His book charts the intellectual and visual culture of systems thinking between 1880 and 1980.

Tornay, Magaly

Zugriffe auf das Ich

Psychoaktive Stoffe und Personenkonzepte in der Schweiz, 1945 bis 1980

Volume 4
2016. XI, 286 pages.

ISBN 9783161542794
hardcover 64,00 €

ISBN 9783161542800
eBook PDF

How has the advent of modern psychotropic drugs affected our understanding of ourselves? Has our thinking about our psyche changed since and how did this impact the conceptual contours of health and illness? Taking a lead from these questions, Magaly Tornay charts the history of psychotropic drugs in Switzerland starting with the emergence of LSD. The range of psychotropic drugs has since widened to include among others antidepressants, antipsychotics, tranquilizers and stimulants. The gaze of the psychiatrist, previously focused on the individual patient, gave way to an epidemiological view which brought psychological functions and disorders into the realm of experiments, statistical analysis and chemical modifiability. The author argues that a new object has emerged from this clinical and industrial setting: a psychopharmacological grammar that has changed the ways we see ourselves.

Zedelmaier, Helmut

Werkstätten des Wissens zwischen Renaissance und Aufklärung

Volume 3
2015. VI, 167 pages.

ISBN 9783161538070
sewn paper 59,00 €

ISBN 9783161539350
eBook PDF

How we search for information, how we read and how we process it has changed radically. Agents and institutions responsible for processing, making accessible and selling knowledge have likewise been subjected to this profound transformation. In this volume, Helmut Zedelmaier examines the working practices of scholars between the Renaissance and the Enlightenment. Which techniques and methods did scholars use in order to find the information they sought? How did they manage and process their knowledge? Which forces and contexts effected changes of the practices and in the institutions generating knowledge? Today's visionaries of the digital world of knowledge want to convince us that we are moving into a society in which ever more people know ever more. However, the much vaunted »digital revolution« loses much of its revolutionary character the more one delves into the book-facilitated world and their places of creation. The author shows that knowledge has always been a product underlying history's changing practices and tools.

Trüper, Henning

Topography of a Method

François Louis Ganshof and the Writing of History

Volume 2
2014. IX, 437 pages.

ISBN 9783161531774
hardcover 79,00 €

ISBN 9783161531781
eBook PDF

What does the practical work of writing contribute to historical writing? What does it mean for historical knowledge that it is, inescapably, written? Henning Trüper explores quotidian practices of writing as constituting the working life of a historian, the Belgian mediaevalist François Louis Ganshof (1895–1980). The argument draws on a large variety of texts and writing situations, so as to discuss, across the fault lines of twentieth-century historiography, shifting patterns of methodological discourse; procedures of historicisation; the making of scholarly sociability in writing practice; and finally the actual writing of historical text. Ganshof the historian, whether as author, reader, teacher, student, polemic, diplomat, witness, or mere voice on the radio, remained bound to paperwork, an ensemble of small-scale routines and makeshift solutions that ultimately lacked a central steering agency. The nexus between historical knowledge and paperwork was indissoluble.

Weber, Koni

Umstrittene Repräsentation der Schweiz

Soziologie, Politik und Kunst bei der Landesausstellung 1964

Volume 1
2014. X, 364 pages.

ISBN 9783161531736
hardcover 79,00 €

ISBN 9783161531743
eBook PDF

What happens when in the middle of the Cold War a theater director who has been inspired by the commedia dell'arte and popular customs of western Switzerland teams up with IBM Switzerland in order to carry out a live interview with the visitors to the 1964 national exhibition based on a sociological survey written by researchers from Paris? The result was a full-blown political scandal and a sociological study whose raw material was ultimately used by the famous sociologist Luc Boltanski as a basis for his first monograph. Koni Weber reconstructs the genesis, development and rejection of a sociological analysis. He breaks down the heterogeneity of sociological methods in the 60s and examines a piece of contemporary Swiss history between 1955 and 1964 from the perspective of the history of knowledge.