

**POINT II/REGAIN Fellowship Program**  
**Research topics at the Dahlem Humanities Center**

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*The following descriptions of research fields are not exhaustive and applicants are welcome to propose further topics that can be circumscribed by one of the two research fields.*

**1. Theories and Practices of Interpretation**

Within different cultural traditions there are different ways of dealing with the sense dimension not only of texts but also of artifacts such as painting, sculpture or music. In addition to the Christian tradition, which blends classical with Jewish practices of reading and became secularized in the 19th century, there are also Arabic traditions and practices of reading, which developed in South and East Asia. Modern and postmodern variants may be considered as well. Applicants are invited to submit proposals that fall within this framework.

**2. Performing Cultural Studies**

The meaning of the label 'cultural studies' is not very clear. Is it a specific methodological and/or theoretical approach or is it rather an umbrella term for a vast range of quite heterogeneous procedures and research programs? Furthermore, it is not clear whether 'cultural studies' is supposed to constitute a new discipline in addition to already existing disciplines such as literary studies, musicology, art studies, etc. or whether it is supposed to replace or to embrace existing disciplines. Applicants are invited to submit proposals that analyze not so much what cultural studies purport to do but what they are doing. The 'performance' (in a double sense) of cultural studies should be the primary focus.