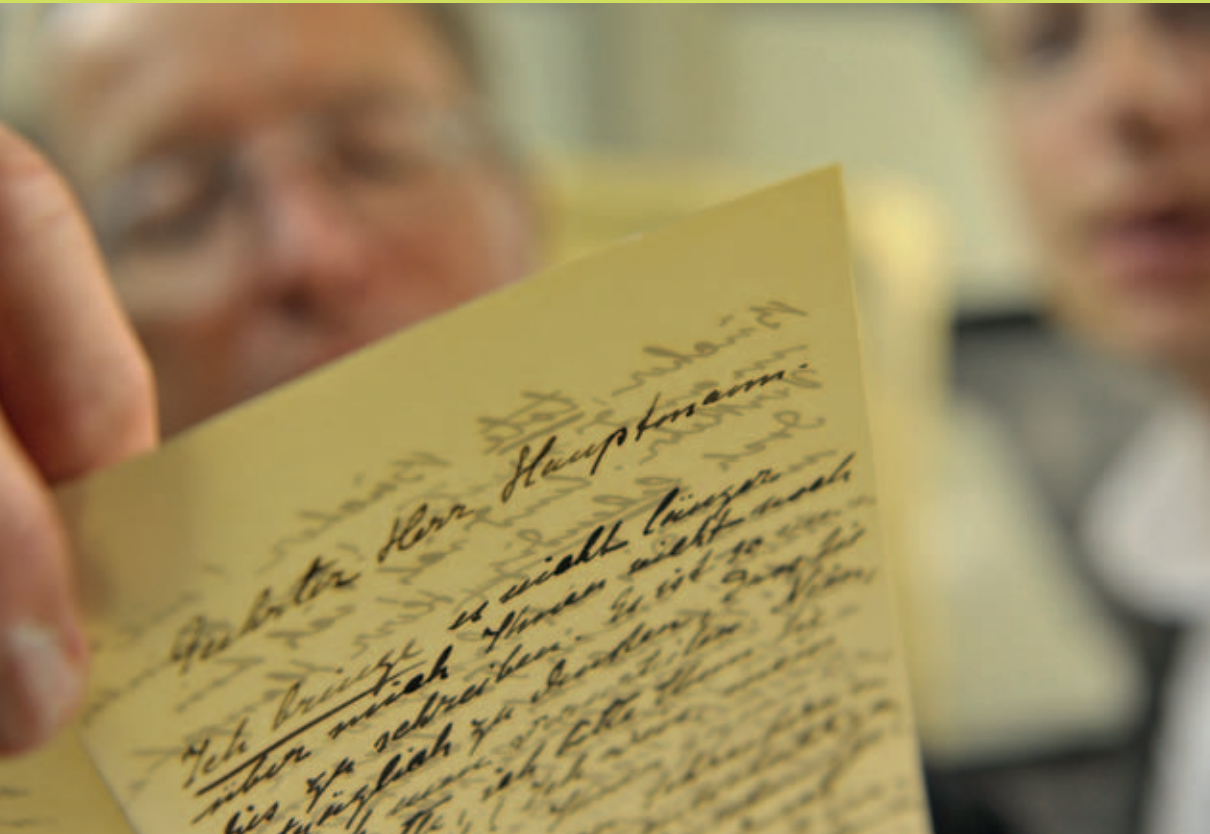


# Focusing Research

The Focus Areas at Freie Universität Berlin

## Dahlem Humanities Center (DHC)



## Focus Area Dahlem Humanities Center



### Dahlem Humanities Center

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**Publisher**

Executive Board of Freie Universität Berlin  
Center for Cluster Development (CCD)  
Kaiserswerther Straße 16 – 18  
14195 Berlin, Germany

Berlin, December 2011

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**Translation**

English Express e.K.

**Layout**

UNICOM Werbeagentur GmbH

**Printing**

Druckerei Heenemann GmbH & Co. KG



## Focus Areas of Freie Universität Berlin

**One special feature of the excellent, broad-based research performed at Freie Universität Berlin is the university's targeted formation of research alliances called Focus Areas.**

Within the Focus Areas, scholars and scientists from different subjects, disciplines, and institutions at Freie Universität work together over a longer period on complex research topics related to subjects of great importance to society.

The Focus Areas help to strengthen the areas of emphasis within the university's research activities and further develop these areas in cooperation with social, political, and economic players.

The Focus Areas can be arranged differently, depending on the specific disciplines, the issues currently being studied, and the individuals involved. The options range from platforms fostering the discussion of ideas, with multifaceted courses and events – such as the Transregional Studies Salon series within the Center for Area Studies (CAS), one of the Focus Areas – to compact alliances dedicated to studying one key area of focus in current research activities, such as nanotechnology in the NanoScale Focus Area.

### Goals of the Focus Areas

- ▶ Taking up research trends and exploring them in interdisciplinary alliances
- ▶ Pooling skills and expertise to answer current research questions
- ▶ Initiation of new projects and solicitation of funding

### The Concept of the Focus Areas is Based on Three Key Principles

- ▶ Excellence in research across disciplines – for society, the political sphere, and the economy
- ▶ Networking and cooperative arrangements – regional, national, and worldwide
- ▶ Support for junior scholars and scientists – well structured, thorough, and comprehensive

### Structure and Organization of the Focus Areas

The Focus Areas are platforms for the development of research ideas growing out of interdisciplinary and interdepartmental initiatives. They represent the very highest level of quality in research activities – guaranteed through ongoing evaluations. Each Focus Area has a spokesperson, who represents that Focus Area within the university and beyond.

The three strategic centers of Freie Universität provide crucial support to the Focus Areas:

- ▶ **The Center for Cluster Development (CCD)** – which will continue as the Center for Research Strategy (CRS) within the scope of the university's new institutional strategy – supports and monitors the initial development, management, and evolution of the Focus Areas.
- ▶ **The Center for International Cooperation (CIC)** supports the Focus Areas with regard to worldwide cooperative arrangements and international visibility.
- ▶ **Dahlem Research School (DRS)** offers advice and assistance for the Focus Areas with regard to measures in support of junior researchers.



*The humanities help keep memories of past centuries alive and available for continued reflection. One of DHC's goals is to bring topics and research findings from the humanities to society at large.*

Photo: D. Ausserhofer



*Reading between the lines: The Dahlem Humanities Center (DHC) has been a Focus Area at Freie Universität since 2009.*

Photo: B. Wannenmacher

*The Henry Ford Building at Freie Universität, lecture hall building and conference center.* Photo: B. Wannenmacher



## The Dahlem Humanities Center: an Overview

**Humanities research at Freie Universität has a breadth and diversity unparalleled in Germany. The central hub of the many departments and activities is the Dahlem Humanities Center (DHC), which was founded in 2007 with a mission of creating interdisciplinary networks. It is the first and only humanities center of its kind in Germany thus far and has been co-funded as a pilot project by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research since 2010.**

DHC provides a platform for the various humanities institutions at Freie Universität and in the Berlin-Brandenburg area to meet and connect. A wide variety of events and program series create the basis for a vibrant exchange of knowledge and ideas between researchers, producing new ideas for interdisciplinary research projects. Cooperation with non-university research organizations, cultural institutions, and the humanities centers at leading universities around the world promise to generate important new impulses for humanities research in Berlin. These new ideas are also discussed outside the university with representatives of the arts, the media, industry, and politics.

### Goals of DHC

- ▶ Pioneering research: DHC explores paradigm shifts, trends, and tendencies in the humanities and opens up new, future-oriented interdisciplinary fields of research.
- ▶ Joint research: DHC's networking activities promote the development of new research initiatives and cooperations in the humanities.
- ▶ Society and the humanities: DHC makes current topics and research findings in the humanities a subject of public debate.

### Research in the Humanities

From forms of society in the ancient world to the linguistic diversity of modern Europe, the fields of research in the humanities are numerous, multi-faceted, and characterized by an investigative approach that seeks to understand what people thought about, what "spirit" prevailed in a particular period, and how this was reflected in their daily lives, art, and culture. The humanities help keep memories of past centuries alive and available for continued reflection. Equally concerned with the present, the humanities also explore and reflect on changes in culture and

society and current global issues, making a vital contribution to modern society and societies of the future.

The trends, tendencies, and theories that determine the directions taken by research are analyzed at DHC and presented at a variety of events. The DHC-initiated research project "Episteme in Motion" (Episteme in Bewegung), for example, investigates the modes and conditions of intellectual change in European and non-European cultures before the modern era, which have typically been described as resistant to innovation.

### Disciplines at DHC

DHC members are 24 internationally acclaimed professors based at Freie Universität's Department of Philosophy and Humanities and the Department of History and Cultural Studies. Conceived as a networking structure, DHC offers a platform for dialogue for the over 600 researchers working in the different fields and institutes of the humanities at Freie Universität.

*The humanities departments at Freie Universität Berlin have initiated numerous interdisciplinary projects involving DHC scholars as well as others. The projects include large research alliances such as the Languages of Emotion and Topoi excellence clusters as well as doctoral research projects at institutions such as the Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School.*

*An excellent research environment: A view of the Philological Library at Freie Universität, designed by Lord Norman Foster.*

Photo: B. Wannemacher



*"In our globalized world, the comparative analysis of different cultural and intellectual traditions is more relevant than ever for politics and society."*

Professor Joachim Küpper,  
Director of the Focus Area

Photo: DHC



### Facets of Cooperation

The variety of events at the Dahlem Humanities Center is based on cooperation between scholars, research institutes, the three strategic centers, and the divisions for research and international affairs at Freie Universität Berlin. In this cooperation, ideas are generated for new conference topics, formats, and research topics. Suggestions are pooled for potential DHC guests, new funding schemes to support junior scholars, and strategies for building the external reputation of the humanities.

### DHC: Facts and Figures

Term of funding	June 5, 2009 – September 30, 2012
Funding volume within institutional strategy	€ 990,000
Co-funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research	since 2010
Members	24
Events per year	approx. 15
Freie Universität departments involved	Philosophy and Humanities, History and Cultural Studies
Regional cooperation partners	21



DHC is a member of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI) with 180 centers, institutes, and affiliate organizations in 23 countries. It is the first and only Humanities Center in Germany.



## Identifying and Developing Current Research Trends

Part of DHC's mission is to foster the exchange of ideas between the various fields of the humanities and institutes based at the university, between the university and cultural institutions in Berlin, and between the university and research institutions all over the world. The goal of these networking activities is to document, debate, and develop research in the humanities. A range of innovative programs and event series has been set up to promote this process.

Three of these event series – the concept laboratories, the panel on trends and tendencies, and the workshops on knowledge and practice – are part of a pilot project funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research to experiment with new forms of research in the humanities. The principal aim of the DHC event series is to bring humanities research out of the ivory tower and into the arena of public debate. Most events are therefore explicitly open to the public.

### Hegel Lectures

The most popular of the DHC's events, the Hegel Lecture series, is held once a year by an outstanding scholar of the humanities and is directed at an academic and non-academic audience. The Hegel Lecture is dedicated to the central principle expounded in the philosophy of Georg Friedrich Wilhelm Hegel: freedom. Freedom of thought in academics and research is a core value and an obligation inextricably linked with the name and history of Freie Universität Berlin.

A list of scholars who have held the Hegel Lecture to date can be found on page 26 and 27.

### Dahlem Humanities Center Lectures

The Dahlem Humanities Center Lectures reflect the wide range of DHC's international activities. The lectures in this series are held by distinguished scholars in the humanities and social sciences and by writers, intellectuals, and artists from all over the world. They aim to give a wider academic and non-academic audience insights into specific research projects. The lecture series is organized by DHC in cooperation with institutes of Freie Universität such as the Center for Area Studies (a Focus Area of Freie Universität), as well as other university and

non-university research institutes like the Centre Marc Bloch in Berlin or the Simon Dubnow Institute at Universität Leipzig.

To date the series has featured guest speakers from Brazil, China, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Morocco, Korea, Japan, and the United States.

### Concept Laboratories

The aim of the concept laboratories is to determine and reflect on the current status of transdisciplinary research issues. To this end, each year ten to 15 internationally acclaimed researchers are invited to spend three days debating with humanities scholars from Freie Universität and develop ideas for innovative research projects. Each concept laboratory is concluded with a public debate in which representatives from the worlds of politics, culture, and the media are invited to participate. The key question in all of these concluding debates is what answers the humanities can provide to help address the social and global problems of our time.

The first concept laboratory in 2010 was dedicated to the subject of identity politics. The concept laboratory in 2011 explored the topic of religion and society in the 21st century, while that of 2012 focuses on world literature.

### Panel on Trends and Tendencies

The panel on trends and tendencies focuses on current theories and methods in the humanities. It is dedicated to identifying and discussing the emergence of new research paradigms and the directions these could take in order to make prognoses about future tendencies in theory development.

The panel is convened once a year during the winter semester. Five to six scholars from various disciplines and countries are invited to a two-day panel debate with researchers and students from Freie Universität. Much like the concept laboratories, the internal sessions conclude with a public panel discussion where participants present the results of their debate to the general public.

The first panel discussion focused on the subject of postcolonial studies. This interdisciplinary approach to research that emerged in the 1970s has resulted in a paradigm shift in the humanities and decisively influenced many other disciplines. The DHC panel inquired into the relevance of postcolonial studies for the future and discussed recent



Professor Homi K. Bhabha, Director of the Humanities Center at Harvard University, attended the concept laboratory on Identity Politics and held DHC's Hegel Lecture in 2010.

Photo: S. Töpfer

DHC reports the findings of the concept laboratories in its trends in humanities series, published in English by De Gruyter.



At the 2011 concept laboratory, the German Federal Minister of Education and Research, Professor Annette Schavan, gave a guest lecture entitled "Reference to God as a Liberating Impulse: On the Liberating Power of Religions in Modern Societies."

Photo: B. Wannenmacher

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Postcolonial studies shed light on the cultural dimensions of the colonial era and their influence on colonized societies, colonial powers and European societies. Differences, connections, and continuities within and between different cultures are examined against this historical background.

developments such as the concept of cosmopolitanism – the notion of world citizenship in the context of globalization.

“History & Memory” was the title of the second panel, which took place in 2011 and examined the relationship between cultures of memory and historiography. The divide between subjective memories and official versions of history was the particular focus of discussion.

**Workshop**

The annual DHC workshop aims to promote exchange between research and practice in Berlin and to explore new forms of cooperation. In this workshop, DHC scholars engage in intensive dialogue with representatives from the spheres of art, media, business, and politics. DHC sees the workshop as an excellent opportunity to reflect on how to strengthen and assert the role of the humanities in society and culture, and also to gain insights on current developments in contemporary culture that provide essential impulses for research in the humanities.

The series was initiated in 2010 with a workshop on the relationship between the humanities and the media. The discussion focused on the possibilities and limits of disseminating the findings of research in the humanities via the media.

Cooperation between universities and museums – taking Berlin as a case in point – was the subject of a further workshop organized by DHC in cooperation with the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation.

Right: The panels on trends and tendencies focus on current theories and methods in the humanities. The panel in 2011 examined the relationship between subjective memories and official historiography. Illustration: DHC/M. Wiener



**Panel Discussion**  
**Tuesday, November 29, 2011**  
**18:15–19:45**

**Alan Corfield** | Professor of History, University of Virginia

**Don Diner** | Professor of Modern History, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Director of the Simon Dubnow Institute, Leipzig

**Elizabeth Jelin** | Senior Social Researcher, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET) and Instituto de Desarrollo Económico y Social (IDES), Argentina

**Dong-Choon Kim** | Professor of Sociology, Sungkanghoe University, Korea

**Martin Sabrow** | Professor of Modern and Contemporary History, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Director of the Centre for Contemporary History, Potsdam

**Gabrielle Spiegel** | Professor of History, Johns Hopkins University

**Joachim Köpper** | Professor of Romance Philology and Comparative Literature and Director of the Dahlem Humanities Center, Freie Universität Berlin

*History & Memory*

**Subjective Constructions**  
**VS.**  
**Master Narratives.**  
**An Insurmountable Divide?**

Freie Universität Berlin | “Rostlaube”, Room KL 32 / 123  
 Habelschwerdter Allee 45 | 14195 Berlin-Dahlem

The panel discussion will be held in English and will be followed by a reception. Admission is free. Please register by November 23, 2011 by e-mail: [admin@dhc.fu-berlin.de](mailto:admin@dhc.fu-berlin.de). Further information: [www.fu-berlin.de/sites/en/dhc](http://www.fu-berlin.de/sites/en/dhc)



## Supporting New Ideas in Research

**The range and diversity of individual and joint projects in the humanities at Freie Universität Berlin is the basis and precondition for the work conducted at DHC. The Focus Area serves as a forum that connects researchers and supports innovative ideas and the creation of new research alliances. Competitions of ideas help DHC achieve these goals.**



*Knowledge is in flux. The collaborative research center “Episteme in Bewegung – Wissenstransfer von der Alten Welt bis in die Frühe Neuzeit” investigates this very phenomenon. The project was initiated within DHC’s Senior Forum. Photo: Freie Universität Berlin*

“DHC does not engage in research itself. It aims to act as an incubator for ideas,” says Professor Joachim Küpper, director of the Dahlem Humanities Center. As a special incentive for the exchange and development of new individual research projects and research alliances in the humanities, DHC has established two competitions of ideas: the Senior Forum and the Junior Forum. In each case, the successful projects receive free consulting, start-up funding, and the support of distinguished and experienced professors.

DHC also offers short-term grants for international doctoral and master’s degree program students (see p. 19 and 31).

### Senior Forum

In the Senior Forum, professors from the two humanities departments – the Department of Philosophy and Humanities and the Department of History and Cultural Studies – present planned research projects and discuss possible cooperations. The Forum is designed as a platform for the discussion of specific projects and strategic consulting on applications for third-party funding.

The Senior Forum was initiated in January 2009. As a result of the competition, 16 projects received start-up funding from the Center for Cluster Development and the Freie Universität Innovation Fund.

These included interdisciplinary research projects on sacred texts dating from Late Antiquity, an art history project on the politicization and ideologization of architecture in post-war Germany and a project on youth cultures as media cultures in the 21st century that is being conducted at the Institute for Arts and Media Management.

The forum has also resulted in a project for the establishment of a new collaborative research center to be called “Episteme in Motion.”

### Episteme in Motion

The planned collaborative research center (SFB) Episteme in Bewegung – Wissenstransfer von der Alten Welt bis in die Frühe Neuzeit (Episteme in Motion – Knowledge Transfer from the Ancient World to the Early Modern Era) will focus on the question of how knowledge is always in a state of flux, even in those traditions and cultures whose store of knowledge has been widely regarded as stable, and on developing criteria for describing this subtle transformation.

The phenomenon of subcutaneous knowledge change – of episteme in motion – can be observed in particular in the knowledge cultures of the Ancient World, the Middle East, the Far East, and pre-modern Europe. Examples of the kind of questions this project is concerned with include the extent to which the Quran can be seen as a “transfer product” of knowledge already prevalent in Late Antiquity or how medical encyclopedias, often dismissed as mere compilations and symptoms of fossilized knowledge, in actual fact subtly establish new orders and content.

### Junior Forum I

Experience has shown that young postdocs wishing to continue their research face particular difficulties in securing funding for their projects. In response to this problem, DHC set up the Junior Forum in 2011. In this competition of ideas, postdocs present their projects to a jury of one university administration representative, university professors, and junior scholars from the two humanities departments. Successful candidates are awarded the financial and professional support they need for a period of up to one year, enabling them to focus on planning their project and preparing applications for third-party funding. Four postdoctoral students are currently benefiting from this scheme. Ghassan El Masri is one of these four. He majored in philosophy at the American University of Beirut, gained his Ph.D. in Arabic Studies at Freie Universität Berlin and is currently pursuing an innovative habilitation project: his aim is to analyze the Quran not only from a religious perspective, but as a literary work with modern philological methods, setting it in the context of contemporary Arabic literature. His approach opens up an entirely new perspective on the book for Muslim and non-Muslim readers.



*Philosopher and Arabic Studies scholar Dr. Ghassan El Masri gave a compelling presentation on his habilitation project at the Junior Forum. His research opens up a totally new perspective on the Quran for Muslim and non-Muslim readers alike.*

Photo: DHC

Art historian Eva Hausdorf, who earned her undergraduate and doctoral degree at Freie Universität and is currently working as a curator at the Bucerius Kunst Forum in Hamburg, also convinced the jury. In her project, she analyzes dust as a medium in art and systematically traces the meanings it has acquired in the history of theological and philosophical thought. Her project aims to contribute to the study of material culture in art history.

### Junior Forum II International Research Fellowship Program for Postdocs

Building on Junior Forum I, DHC established an international post-doctoral research fellowship program for applicants from seven partner universities. In 2012 early-career scholars were invited to apply for six-month grants to benefit from Berlin as a research location for their own projects. The fellowship program is also an excellent opportunity to meet and connect with researchers at Freie Universität. Candidates interested in extending their stay at Freie Universität receive advice and support from the research division on applying for third-party grants from German and international funding organizations.

Current partners in the Junior Forum II program include universities in Europe, the United States and Asia: École des hautes études en sciences sociales, the University of Cambridge, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the University of Chicago, The Johns Hopkins University, and Columbia University.



*The Junior Forum II program is aimed at postdoctoral students at selected partner universities of Freie Universität in Europe, North America and Asia. The fellowship program offers young scholars an excellent opportunity to meet and connect with researchers at Freie Universität.*

Photo: P. Himsel



*Left: Dr. Eva Hausdorf studies dust as a medium in art. While pursuing her research project, she is also working as a curator at Bucerius Kunst Forum in Hamburg, where she helped curate an exhibition featuring works by Ferdinand Hodler and Cuno Amiet.*

Photo: I. Wartenberg



### Postdoc and Junior Forum Research Fellow

## Dörte Rokitta-Krumnow

*“The research grant has given me the funding I need to concentrate on getting the grant application ready for my postdoctoral project. The DHC team has been extremely supportive in every way – I get important advice concerning the content, language, and style of proposal writing, and the formal requirements for grant applications. This greatly increases my chances of actually getting the grant and saves me precious time.”*

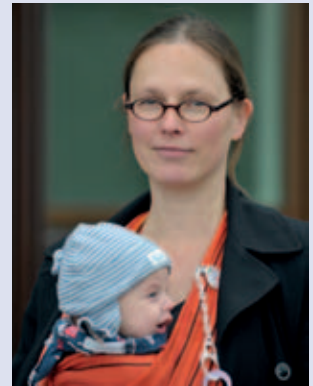
The mix of history, technology, and cultures is what drew archaeologist Dörte Rokitta-Krumnow to her subject as well as the diversity of ways in which the history of humanity can now be investigated. Before embarking on her studies of Middle Eastern Archaeology and Jewish Studies at Freie Universität, Dörte Rokitta-Krumnow trained as a drafting technician and spent half a year in Israel. She was fascinated by the country and its people, the diversity of languages spoken there, and the co-existence of different religions. The Middle East became the regional focus of her research.

She began accumulating practical experience during her first year by working at the German Archeological Institute. For her doctoral dissertation she investigated the development of the stone tool industry in the northern Levant around 7000 BCE. Her research has taken the archeologist to Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Indonesia.

If she receives the grant, Dörte Rokitta-Krumnow will travel to the land of the Fertile Crescent and investigate the causes and consequences of social inequality in the Neolithic era – the period between 10000 and 6000 BCE. Although the subject has been studied in projects focusing on particular aspects, no comparative study has yet been made. The archeologist plans to analyze material findings such as architecture, stone tools, burial grounds, and burial objects by combining methodological approaches from both archeology and the social sciences.

**Her goals: to carry out her project, keep researching, and start teaching.**

*Left: Archaeologist Dörte Rokitta-Krumnow plans to conduct excavations in the Middle East for a new project and is an expert at combining work and family life. Here she is recording small lithic finds during a past dig in Hama, Syria. Photo: private collection*



*Dörte Rokitta-Krumnow with her youngest daughter.*

Photo: B. Wannenmacher

## Regional, National, and Global Networks

The DHC Focus Area promotes cooperation between the various fields of the humanities at Freie Universität, in the Berlin-Brandenburg region, and at the international level. In addition, DHC seeks to engage in dialogue with non-university institutions and holds a wide range of events aimed at the general public.

DHC extends existing networks and promotes the creation of new cooperations in the humanities. The activities of the Focus Area are based on a large number of institutionalized partnerships, which DHC is continually seeking to expand. The events and programs bring scholars from all over the world to the center and enable the non-institutional linking up of students and scholars at an international level.

New ideas for interdisciplinary research projects are developed on the basis of these alliances. The Focus Area therefore also plays an active part in attracting external funding.

### Regional and National Cooperation Partners

Results and challenges in humanities research are the subject of many DHC events at the university and in the Berlin-Brandenburg area. DHC has contracted cooperation agreements with 21 universities and non-university institutions. Focus Area partners are research and cultural institutions including the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, the Centre Marc Bloch, the Einstein Forum Potsdam, the Jewish Museum Berlin, Deutschlandradio Kultur, and some of Berlin's leading theatres and opera houses. Most cooperation partners are located in the Berlin-Brandenburg region, but there are exceptions, such as the Simon Dubnow Institute in Leipzig.

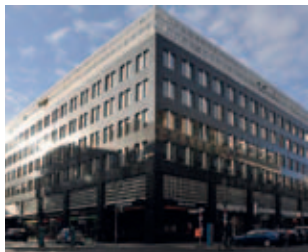
### International Cooperation Partners

As the only humanities center of its kind in Germany so far, DHC plays a pioneering role. It is modeled on humanities centers in the United States. The Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI) was founded there in 1988, and today it comprises 180 humanities centers, institutes, and partner organizations from a total of 23 countries. DHC is a member and part of this global network for the humanities. The CHCI provides a forum in which global tendencies and differences in humanities research can be discussed. Its support structure has fos-

tered many close collaborations with individual researchers from all over the world.

DHC has also intensified cooperation with the Asian New Humanities Net (ANHN), which will in turn prompt further individual cooperations. DHC has already received several visiting scholars from China. Privileged DHC partners include Duke University, Columbia University, The Johns Hopkins University, and the École normale des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) in Paris.

- 1 The American Academy, Hans Arnold Center Berlin
- 2 Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW)
- 3 Centre Marc Bloch (CMB)
- 4 Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (DAI)
- 5 Einstein Forum
- 6 Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
- 7 Social Science Research Center Berlin
- 8 Center for Literary and Cultural Research Berlin
- 9 Zentrum Moderner Orient
- 10 Deutsche Oper Berlin
- 11 Deutsches Theater
- 12 Haus der Kulturen der Welt
- 13 Hebbel am Ufer
- 14 Jewish Museum Berlin
- 15 Komische Oper Berlin
- 16 Staatsoper Unter den Linden
- 17 Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation
- 17a Staatliche Museen Berlin (SMB)
- 17b Staatsbibliothek
- 17c Ibero-American Institute (IAI)
- 18 Volksbühne at Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz
- 19 Arsenal – Institute for Film and Video Art/ Friends of the German Film Archive
- 20 Deutschlandradio Kultur
- 21 De Gruyter Publishing House



The Centre Marc Bloch in Berlin is a German-French research center for the social sciences. Created in 1992 by the governments of Germany and France, it plays a key role as a top-tier networking liaison for universities, research institutions, and researchers in both countries and beyond.

Photo: cmb

Cooperation Partners of DHC in the Berlin-Brandenburg region





An interdisciplinary team of scholars from the Topoi cluster of excellence and their Syrian colleagues survey a section of Tell Fecheriye. The site is one of the most important tells in northeastern Syria. Photo: D. Bonatz



The Languages of Emotion excellence cluster has one of the most advanced neurocognitive laboratories in Germany at its disposal, the Dahlem Institute for Neuroimaging of Emotion (D.I.N.E.).

Photo: B. Wannenmacher

#### Clusters of Excellence in the Humanities at Freie Universität

The unique breadth and wealth of the humanities at Freie Universität is reflected in the quality of its research and in the number of outstanding institutions. Freie Universität coordinates two clusters of excellence with humanities as the main focus. The clusters are part of a comprehensive network of regional, national and international organizations.

#### Topoi Cluster of Excellence

The Topoi (The Formation and Transformation of Space and Knowledge in Ancient Civilizations) cluster of excellence combines Berlin's strengths in the study of the ancient world. Topoi researchers investigate the systematic connections between space and knowledge orders in the cultures of the Middle East and the Mediterranean from the ancient civilizations to antiquity and the early Middle Ages. The cluster is coordinated by Freie Universität Berlin and Humboldt Universität Berlin. Partners are the Deutsche Archäologisches Institut, the Berlin Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, and the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation.

#### Languages of Emotion Cluster of Excellence

In the Languages of Emotion cluster, researchers from over 20 different disciplines investigate the interdependencies between emotions, language, and sign systems. The cluster includes Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, the joint medical school of Freie Universität and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Partners include the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) and the German Sport University Cologne. Leading non-university research institutions participating in the cluster include the Max Planck Institutes for Human Development in Berlin, Neuroscience and Cognitive Science and Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, and the Center for Literary and Cultural Research Berlin.

Right: The Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School is the only graduate school focusing on literary studies to have been distinguished by the Excellence Initiative.

Photo: B. Wannenmacher



## International Humanities

**The Dahlem Humanities Center at Freie Universität is a high-profile international research center in steady expansion.**

Leading intellectuals from all over the world are regular guests at DHC. They include the outstanding scholars and brilliant minds invited to hold the annual Hegel Lecture.

### International Guests at the DHC Hegel Lecture

This event series was initiated by DHC at Freie Universität in 2008. The first Hegel Lecture “1968 – 2008” was held by French philosopher, essayist, and writer André Glucksmann. Glucksmann is a leading contemporary French philosopher whose works are directed against fanaticism and the dominance of ideologies.

The Hegel Lecture in 2009 had the title “Frames of War” and was given by Judith Butler, a philosopher and Professor of Rhetoric and Comparative Literature at UC Berkeley who is widely regarded as one of the most important contemporary intellectuals in the U.S. Her work focuses on gender research, linguistic philosophy, ethics, and political theory.



Initiating the Hegel Lecture series, French philosopher André Glucksmann delivered a speech to celebrate the opening of Dahlem Humanities Center in January 2008.

Photo: B. Wannenmacher

More than 2,400 people came to hear Judith Butler's lecture at Freie Universität.

Photo: S. Töpper

The Hegel Lecture 2010 was held by Homi K. Bhabha on the subject of paradox communities and questions of cultural identity. The culture theorist teaches at Harvard University and is Director of the Humanities Center there. His research centers on postcolonial theory and questions and problems of cultural identity.

“Is It Still Possible to Be a Hegelian Today?” was the question explored by Slovenian philosopher, psychoanalyst and cultural analyst Slavoj Žižek at the Hegel Lecture 2011, in which he examined Hegel’s rational “world spirit.” Slavoj Žižek teaches and pursues his academic work at the University of Ljubljana and the European Graduate School in Saas-Fee, Switzerland. He is also International Director of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities at the University of London.



The Hegel Lecture held by American philosopher and gender studies scholar Judith Butler in 2009 was broadcast to four auditoriums in the Henry Ford Building of Freie Universität Berlin.

Photo: S. Töpper

### International Visiting Scholars in the Humanities

#### Visiting Professor in American Art

The visiting professorship for American art was established in the winter semester 2009/2010 at the JFK Institut at Freie Universität Berlin to promote the study of American art history in Europe. A different scholar is appointed to the position each semester. The visiting professorship is funded by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

#### Visiting Scholars at the Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School

Every year, the Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School invites up to four international scholars to join the school as visiting scholars for a period of between two and six months. The visiting scholars work with doctoral students and offer them guidance, as well as giving lectures on their current research, holding workshops on specific themes, and conducting their own research projects. Visiting scholars have included Professor Leonard Barkan, an expert on comparative literature and the history of art at Princeton University; Janet Walker, who is Professor of Comparative Literature at Rutgers University and specializes in European and Asian literature; and Danièle Cohn, Professor of Esthetics at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) in Paris.



Slovenian philosopher, psychoanalyst, and cultural critic Slavoj Žižek held the Hegel Lecture at Freie Universität in 2011.

Photo: B. Wannenmacher

## Support for Students and Junior Scholars in the Humanities

Outstanding young scholars in the humanities receive the very best education at Freie Universität and benefit enormously from their departments' cooperation with the Focus Area. Structured doctoral programs, intensive tutoring, and the chance to work in interdisciplinary networks open up a wealth of opportunities and excellent prospects for undergraduate, doctoral, and postdoctoral students.

### Studying

The large number of researchers investigating diverse aspects and eras of human history corresponds to the wide range of disciplines in the humanities at Freie Universität. In their teaching, DHC members pass on their expertise to students and give them insights into the latest research in the humanities from the very beginning of their studies. Students also benefit from the diversity of events open to them as well as from DHC's excellent network of contacts.

### More than 60 B.A. and M.A. Programs in the Humanities

The Department of Philosophy and Humanities and the Department of History and Cultural Studies offer a total of over 30 bachelor's and an equal number of master's degree programs. Disciplines range from General and Comparative Literature, Egyptology, countless languages and their respective literatures, Jewish Studies, Art History and Musicology to Film, Television and Dance studies or Edition Philology. There are also various options for those wishing to gain qualification as teachers within the bachelor's and master's programs.

### Doctoral Studies

#### Doctoral Programs

Freie Universität offers a variety of structured doctoral programs with a special focus on the humanities. Facilities include the Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School, the only German graduate school of literary studies distinguished by the Excellence Initiative. Other Freie Universität graduate schools with a strong focus on the humanities include the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, the Graduate School of North American Studies, the International Research Training Group "InterArt", the graduate school of the Languages of Emotion cluster

of excellence, and the doctoral program of the International Research Training Group "Between Spaces. Movements, Actors and Representations of Globalization" at the Institute for Latin American Studies (LAI).

Freie Universität Berlin's doctoral programs in the humanities offer courses in German and English and are integrated within the structures of Dahlem Research School, with qualification programs and additional course offers focusing on so-called transferable skills such as the communication of knowledge, knowledge management, and foreign language skills.

The programs currently provide approximately 176 doctoral students in the humanities with a solid foundation of knowledge based on the very latest research in their respective fields, offers them personalized support and careful academic guidance, and prepares them for a career at the forefront of research.

### Research

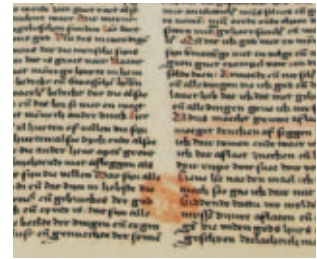
Young researchers benefit from the diversity of subjects and research at Freie Universität and in the Berlin-Brandenburg area. They have access to outstanding libraries and archives and are involved in national and international research programs. In addition, they have plenty of opportunities to meet and network with international scholars.

### Pointing the way forward: the POINT support program in the Focus Areas

In 2011, Dahlem Research School (DRS) launched a special aid program for postdocs: Postdoc International, or POINT. Each year, the program makes it possible for five outstanding researchers from other countries to spend a total of twelve months pursuing research projects in the Focus Areas at Freie Universität. Each POINT fellow's objective is to get his or her project ready to apply for aid and then to raise funding for the project.

The fellows are integrated into the research networks existing within the Focus Areas. They participate in an individualized weeklong orientation program and in the DRS qualification program and receive access to the mentoring and career development programs offered by DRS.

For further information, please contact [fellowship-drs@fu-berlin.de](mailto:fellowship-drs@fu-berlin.de)



Deciphering old manuscripts is one research focus in Freie Universität's master's program in Edition Philology. Questions concerning the anthropological, social, and cultural context of script and writing are the focus of the Research Training Group Notational Iconicity, which is funded by the German Research Foundation. Pictured here is a manuscript with sermons by mystical theologian Johannes Tauler, which was written in the mid-16th century in a nunnery in Arnhem (Netherlands).

Photo: I. Sulejmanovic



Taking up a course of study doesn't have to be a mystery: Freie Universität offers new students of the humanities all kinds of support.

Photo: I. Sulejmanovic



Dahlem Research School (DRS) launched a special funding program for international postdocs in 2011.

Photo: DRS



### Funding

The Dahlem Humanities Center has established a variety of programs to provide outstanding support for junior scholars in the humanities at Freie Universität during and after their doctoral degrees. Initiatives include start-up funding for promising projects, expert advice from distinguished, experienced professors, and strategic consulting on applying for third-party funding.

#### ► Junior Forums

In 2011, DHC launched the Junior Forum Competition of Ideas where candidates can present project proposals and discuss their ideas. Find out more on page 16–19.

#### ► Short-Term Fellowships for Young International Scholars

DHC awards short-term fellowships to doctoral and master's students from abroad for periods of up to three months. DHC also provides outstanding international students and postdocs with ideal conditions for working on third party-funded projects at Freie Universität. They have access to the entire research infrastructure and can link up to national and international research programs. Fellows are integrated into the DHC network and encouraged to bring their ideas and expertise into all DHC activities.



*DHC offers special funding programs for students and doctoral candidates from abroad. Photo: B. Wannemacher*





## DHC Fellow

### Bryan Klausmeyer

*"I feel very much at home at Freie Universität and the Dahlem Humanities Center. The research conditions here are truly excellent. The libraries and the wealth of literature available are particularly important for my work as a German Studies scholar. Apart from that, everyone has been really friendly and helpful. I've learned my way around here now and have made a lot of valuable contacts. And of course, Berlin is a great city."*

Humor is a vital part of Bryan Klausmeyer's research: He is investigating the role of humor in the works of Jean Paul and Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel within the context of the opposing philosophical and literary trends of the period between Classicism and Romanticism.

Bryan Klausmeyer grew up in Florida and studied European intellectual history and German language and literature at the University of Michigan. He entered the Ph.D. program Modern German Thought and Literature at The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore in 2011. Klausmeyer first came to Freie Universität Berlin in 2009 to attend the German-language course in the FUBiS program Freie Universität's International Summer and Winter University, which had been recommended to him; these courses are approved by the Forum on Education Abroad. Since then, Klausmeyer has come to Dahlem regularly, most recently as a DHC fellow from May to August 2011. He spent most of his time in the Philological Library working on the project outline for his second Master's degree. He plans to return to Germany and continue his research at Freie Universität in 2013.



Bryan Klausmeyer

**His aim:** to become a professor of German literature.

*Left: Doctoral candidate Bryan Klausmeyer of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, wrote his dissertation on the role of humor in the works of Jean Paul and Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel. A DHC fellow, Klausmeyer spent several months researching the topic at Freie Universität's Philological Library.*

*Photos: B. Wannemacher*

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