Core Research at the Faculty of Humanities
Core Research at the Faculty of Humanities
The Eberhard Karls University Tübingen is one of Europe’s oldest universities, with a history extending over 500 years. For centuries it has been a place where intellectual history was written: Since its founding in 1477, great figures in the history of ideas have left their mark on the university, among them Hegel, Hölderlin and Schelling. Today, Tübingen remains a city of research and education. 450 professors and over 4000 scientists currently teach and do research at the university’s seven faculties. The Faculty of Humanities was formed in 2010 from the merger of the former Faculties of Philosophy and History, Modern Languages, and Cultural Sciences. It encompasses nearly all institutes and professorships in the Humanities within the University and is divided into five departments.

The international recognition enjoyed by the Eberhard Karls University rests, in no small part, on the caliber of its Humanities. Internationally, Tübingen has been and continues to be associated with the work of top researchers in all areas of the Humanities and Cultural Sciences. High rankings for individual subject areas as well as for the faculty as a whole show that it belongs to the strongest research centers in Germany in this area. In comparative surveys of universities, the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Tübingen is frequently awarded the top rankings.

The faculty spans nearly the entire spectrum of research traditions in the Humanities. This is true of both the wide variety of fields that are represented, as well as the variety of methodological approaches employed: From fundamental research in the areas of History, Philosophy, Philology and Linguistics, through cultural analyses of past and present societal developments, to methodologies at the interface of Humanities and Social Sciences, with an increasing interest in the border between the Humanities and Sciences. This is exemplified by a large number of interdisciplinary research focus areas, such as those of the Collaborative Research Centers, Research Training Groups and Research Centers. Yet, the strength and relevance of the research in the Humanities in Tübingen also reposes crucially on the diversity of the research being carried out within individual fields themselves.

With this brochure, we hope to offer a glimpse into the diversity and quality of the research in the Humanities and Cultural Sciences at the Eberhard Karls University Tübingen. We hope that it will awaken an interest in scientific exchange and a deepened cooperation with our faculty.

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Leonhardt (Dean)

Prof. Dr. Klaus Antoni (Vice-Dean of Research)
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**Collaborative Research Center (CRC) 1070 Resource Cultures**

The **Collaborative Research Center (CRC) 1070 Resource Cultures** (» p. 24-25) investigates the importance and use of resources for the development of human society from prehistory until the modern age from a strongly interdisciplinary perspective. Archeologists, anthropologists, geographers, historians, philologists and economic historians work together to answer the question of how something becomes a resource for societal developments, and what the social dynamics caused by the use of this resource are. The CRC takes as a starting point the observation that societies from different times and places created their own differing views about what they considered to hold particular value for group life. When it comes to answering complex questions about cultural history, archeometry plays an important role, relying on methods from the natural sciences. The Curt-Engelhorn-Centre Archeometry delivers, in its capacity as a close cooperator with the University of Tübingen, important contributions to archeological research, for example through analysis of materials.

The **Tübingen Inter-Faculty Center for Archeology** brings together scholars from two different faculties at the University of Tübingen working in the area of Archeology and the study of antiquity. The Tübingen Center covers the complete temporal range from the paleolithic to the medieval period and uses the full scope of methods based in the natural sciences.

Use this link: [www.uni-tuebingen.de/en/26419](http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/en/26419) to learn more.
In recent times, international interconnectedness has been increasing steadily in all areas of life while concepts of strict borders between nations, cultures and academic disciplines become less meaningful. The projects in the areas of arts, cultures and literatures reflect this transition and, because of their versatility, lend dynamism to the research in the area of the Humanities and set themselves apart by their high degree of internationality. One of the trademarks of this internationality is Tübingen's excellent training in the area of languages, which makes it possible to work closely with original texts and sources. The Faculty of Humanities is proud to offer training and expertise in an unusually broad spectrum of languages, ranging from Arabic, to Greek and even Sanskrit and East Asian languages. This expertise is furthermore complemented by numerous international cooperations with renowned universities and partners all over the world. Thus, for example, the program Literary Cultures of the Global South (p. 37) brings together prominent “Global South Universities” (UFL, Brazil; UNAM Mexico; Wits, South Africa; UCAD, Senegal; JNU, India) with scholars from other universities in the southern hemisphere and beyond (UNI, Australia; SNUL, Korea) and aims to explore literary manifestations (in their often intermedial, networked forms) of these “lateral” southern cultural connections. The German-French Research Training Group (RTG) Culture and Conflict (p. 29) is devoted, among other issues, to the exploration of cross-border cultural exchange and its manifestations. The RTG takes a bilateral approach to research and concentrates primarily on the investigation of cultural conflict. In addition, it implements an integrated program of doctoral studies in Aix-en-Provence and Tübingen. The Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate Program Cultural Studies in Literary Interzones (p. 28) follows a similar approach. Candidates pursue their studies in several graduate centers or doctoral schools situated in four different countries. Their scientific agenda focuses on thinking in a non-identitarian way about the complexities, overlaps, divisions but also similarities which structure cultural, literary and artistic environments across nations, social classes, genders, ideological commitments, or historical periods. The Doctoral Network Another Aesthetics – (Self-)Reflecting the Arts in Pre-Modern Times (p. 30) aims not to discuss aesthetics within an evolutionary context, as it has been done in recent scholarship. The project aims instead to address the question with reflections about art within literary texts or works of art themselves and intends to introduce the term of aesthetic (self-)reflection as a concept of interdisciplinary research. Another attempt to cross academic boundaries by the Faculty of Humanities is found in the Poetry Lectureship and the Media Lectureship, which strengthen the relationship between the university and the general public. These projects are conceived as forums for cultural exchange in which students, lecturers, university staff and the general public from Tübingen and surrounding area are given the opportunity to meet and talk with exceptional authors and journalists from Germany and abroad. Since 2013 the Institute for Slavic Studies has taken the leading role in the management of the EU Project Transstar, which brings together ten partners from six different European countries. The goal of this project is to better place smaller European languages and less well-integrated European cultures on the mental map of Europe.
In addition to its many bilateral research cooperations with research institutions in Asia, the AOI maintains its own branch offices in Japan (Kyoto), China (Beijing) and Korea (Seoul), a sign of its international character.

The University of Tübingen’s sustained regional presence in Asia is unrivaled among European Institutions. For over twenty years, the University of Tübingen has maintained the Tübingen Center for Japanese Studies (p. 62), founded in 1993, at the Obihiro University in Kyto. In China, the University of Tübingen has, since 2001, been a leading force behind the European Center for Chinese Studies at Beijing University (p. 64). In 2010, Tübingen’s third office in East Asia, the Tübingen Center for Korean Studies (p. 64), was opened at the Korea University in Seoul. These three centers facilitate contact between Tübingen and East Asia, not just for the Faculty of Humanities, but for the University as a whole. For scholars of contemporary East Asian Studies, in particular, they function as a locus of cultural exchange and collaboration with scholars from the countries in which they are located.

Taiwan constitutes a further central research area for the University of Tübingen. The European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan (p. 45), a joint project between the University of Tübingen and the Taiwanese Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for Scholarly Research, consolidates European expertise on the study of Taiwan in Tübingen.

Furthermore, in 2012 the university became the first in southern Germany to offer a B.A. program in “China Studies and Chinese Language” that was qualified by the Ministry of Education as a teacher-training program.
History

The foundations of our culture

What are the foundations upon which European culture is built? How complete are the transitions from antiquity to the middle ages and to the modern era? In order to better understand these fundamental transitions, Tübingen's Historians trace the progression from the Greco-Roman antiquity through the European middle ages into the age of creation of the nation-state until the present day societies of Eastern and Western Europe and North America.

An area of particular focus is the transitional phase between antiquity and the middle ages. This research area encompasses multiple research traditions, which investigate the division of the Roman Empire into a western and eastern part, as well as a long term project funded by the Union of the German Academy of Sciences dedicated to the writing of histories in the late antique and early middle ages.

The Center for the Study of Pre-Modern Europe is dedicated to interfaculty collaborations investigating societies and cultures of the temporal periods from antiquity until the „Sattelzeit“ (saddle period, a term coined by Reinhart Koselleck) around 1800, in which the foundations of the modern age were laid. As a forum for discussing current research, it supports the growth of new, interdisciplinary research projects and contributes to the training of young scholars. Additionally, it serves to document thematically related events at the University of Tübingen and to organize the regularly occurring „Tübingen Kolloquium Vormoderne“ (Tübingen Colloquium on the Pre-Modern Age).

In the Collaborative Research Center 923 Threatened Orders (p. 22-23), scholars from a variety of fields focus on situations of change, such as revolutions, phases of forced change or natural catastrophes. How do these things affect the development of a society? How does social order change in the face of them? The project takes a comparative look not just at the German-speaking world, but at all parts of Europe and North America.

The Research Center Chronographia of John Malalas (n. p. 35), funded by the Academy Program of the Union of the German Academy of Sciences (represented by the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities), has taken form as a Research Center at the University of Tübingen, which is projected to run from 2013-2024. Eastern Central Europe and Eastern Europe play an important role in this research, which is complemented by the research of the Center for Research on German History and Culture in Southeastern Europe. This center belongs to a research association incorporating the Institute for Eastern European History and Geography, the Ludwig-Uhland-Institute for Empirical Cultural Studies and the Institute for Donau-Swabian History and Geography.

» Center for the Study of Pre-Modern Europe
  > http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/en/17551
» Collaborative Research Center 923
  > http://www.sfb923.uni-tuebingen.de
» Chronographia of John Malalas
  > http://www.haw.uni-heidelberg.de/forschung/forschungsstellen/malalas/projekt.de.html
» Center for Research on German History and Culture in Southeastern Europe.
  > http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/en/33989
In the Research Training Group: 1808 Ambiguity - Production and Perception (p. 27), scholars investigate ambiguity in language. It combines apparently diverse research approaches surrounding language in order to understand why communication is possible despite, or perhaps even due to ambiguity, why it fails in some cases and what the effects produced by ambiguity are.

Bridging the divide between the Humanities and the Sciences

Humans learn to speak their native language effortlessly, and are able to use language in all kinds of contexts – yet, the complex processes involved are poorly understood. At the Tübingen Center for Linguistics (TüZLi), scholars take an interdisciplinary approach to the study of language, its interpretation, development and processing.

A guiding idea behind TüZLi is the development of an integrative perspective on language as both a natural and cultural phenomenon. This perspective joins linguistic analysis with research in cognitive and natural sciences on the biological foundations of language on the one hand and with approaches from the cultural sciences on the interaction of human language and culture on the other. With this, the center creates a bridge between the Humanities and the Sciences, serving as a platform to coordinate the rich variety of linguistic research in Tübingen.

The Collaborative Research Center 833 The Construction of Meaning - the Dynamics and Adaptivity of Linguistic Structures (p. 20-21) investigates the emergence of meaning, in linguistic and extra-linguistic context, during language processing and in the specific circumstances of an individual language variety. The joint research group contains linguists – general linguists, computer linguists and specialists in individual languages – and cognitive scientists – psychologists and neuroscientists.

At the Institute for General and Computational Linguistics, a professorship for quantitative linguistics (p. 38) was created with the help of funding from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. The Humboldt-Professor Harald Baayen and his group use modern quantitative and statistical methods to investigate the structure of the lexicon and the articulatory, acoustic and neurological processes involved in language processing.

The ERC project Language Evolution: The Empirical Turn (p. 39) at the Institute for Linguistics looks at the regularity of linguistic evolution and the reconstruction of distant stages of language change using methods from computational linguistics and bioinformatics. This research is supported through an ERC Advanced Grant.

In the Center for Advanced Studies Words, Bones, Genes, Tools (p. 32), jointly led by Prof. Gerhard Jäger (Linguistics) and Prof. Kerstin Havarti (Paleoanthropology), an interdisciplinary collaboration between linguists, paleoanthropologists, archeologists and geneticists study early stages of humanity.

Language and Cognition

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The Werner Reichardt Centre for Integrative Neuroscience (CIN) is the University’s cluster of excellence and serves as common platform for systems neuroscience in Tübingen. The CIN encompasses 85 independent principal investigators with their teams, 24 of them funded primarily by the CIN. The CIN involves three of the university’s faculties, two Max Planck Institutes, the local institutes of the Hertie, Bernstein, and Helmholtz communities as well as the Stuttgart Fraunhofer Institute IPA. The CIN strives for a better understanding of how the brain generates function and how brain diseases impair function. Research is guided by the conviction that progress in this area can only be achieved by an integrative approach tapping many fields of the natural sciences and engineering. The CIN is very open to cooperation with the Humanities, Philosophy in particular, as represented by CIN members Sabine Döring and Thomas Sattig, the former serving on the steering committee. These interactions facilitate co-operations between individuals and attempts at interdisciplinary graduate training programs. The CIN research group on “Philosophy of Neuroscience” (PONS) headed by Hong Yu Wong has created a stimulating forum for many discussions on problems such as the foundations of agency and the self. The intimate interaction between the sciences and the Humanities is represented by a number of well-received summer schools, workshops, conferences. It is well complemented by the annual CIN “Dialogues between the Neurosciences and the Arts and Humanities”, a discussion series on topics of broad interest.

For further information, please contact:
Speaker: Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Thier  I  Coordinator: Sabrina Broocks
www.cin.uni-tuebingen.de

Cluster of Excellence
Werner Reichardt Centre for Integrative Neuroscience

Graduate School
LEAD

The LEAD Graduate School is an integrated research and training program for doctoral students and postdocs on Learning, Educational Achievement, and Life Course Development. It is funded within the framework of the German government’s Excellence Initiative and includes collaboration with the Leibniz Knowledge Media Research Center. The graduate school invites young researchers to broaden their disciplinary knowledge through the LEAD interdisciplinary research perspective combining Educational Science and five intersecting research fields: i) Cognitive, Social, and Motivational Psychology, ii) Neuroscience and Informatics, iii) Clinical and Personality Psychology, iv) Language and Linguistics, v) Sociology and Economics. Language permeates teaching and learning in a wide range of contexts. Teaching in most subjects relies heavily on language-mediated information and tasks, and in second language learning, language also constitutes the subject matter itself. Reading comprehension, language production, and issues of language awareness and social identity are crucial building blocks for students to succeed academically. Accordingly, they are key issues in evidence-based education and in LEAD. Research strands in LEAD include adaptive multimedia and web-based learning environments, automatic input enhancement of authentic materials for language learning, and the interplay of linguistic and mathematical factors in word problem solving.

Graduate School
LEAD

Current LEAD research links linguistic and cognitive measures of textbook complexity, investigates the effectiveness of presentation trainings for youth, analyzes the impact of the linguistic form of questionnaires used in large-scale assessments in education, and advances the understanding of embodiment in second-language learning to better support children learning German as a second language.

For further information, please contact:
LEAD Director: Prof. Dr. Ulrich Treutlein  I  Coordinator of the Language Intersection: Prof. Dr. Delmar Mauers
www.lead.uni-tuebingen.de
Funding Period: November 2012 - October 2017

For further information, please contact:
Speaker: Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Thier  I  Coordinator: Sabrina Broocks
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How does meaning arise during the processing of language? How does context inform our understanding of language? How does meaning emerge in different languages? These are some of the main questions the CRC 833 The Construction of Meaning - the Dynamics and Adaptivity of Linguistic Structures is concerned with. In particular, the emergence of meaning is investigated. Common interests are focused on investigating the development of speech and its comprehension under the influence of context factors. Thus, the research center explores how meaning arises (a) in context, (b) during linguistic processing and (c) in the specific circumstances of an individual language (e.g. English, Russian, Samoan). Our team includes linguists (general linguists, computational linguists, specialists in individual languages) and cognitive scientists (psychologists, neuroscientists).

Section A: Context Awareness and Variability of Meaning
The meaning of linguistic entities features a high degree of variability and openness. In language usage, this uncertainty of meaning is dissolved by context-sensitive interpretations. Especially for the domain of sentences, it is not yet clear how this identification of specific meaning takes place. What linguistic mechanisms are responsible for these context-sensitive interpretations? How do combinatory principles of sentence meaning interact with pragmatic strategies in the evaluation of meaning?

Section B: Process dependence and Cognitive processing
A considerable amount is known in syntax about the characteristics of cognitive processes that are triggered by linguistic structures; the sub-processes of online interpretation - the composition of meaning in particular - are not as well understood. One central question is how the supposed incrementality of cognitive processes can be related to theories of compositional processing. Frege's principle of compositionality is based on the sentence as a whole and ignores the temporal dimension of semantic processing. The size and nature of sub-sentential units to which the various aspects of an incremental computation of meaning refer and the processes that control the actual composition of meaning in time are therefore unresolved issues.

Section C: Variation and Universals from a Crosslinguistic Perspective
Research in crosslinguistic variation has traditionally focused on morphology and syntax. Mechanisms of interpretation have commonly been regarded as universal. However, linguistic structures describing the same state of affairs often seem to differ substantially in individual languages. It is therefore reasonable to also expect variation within the semantic component of grammar. What are the possibilities and limitations of such semantic variation? Where and how is semantic variation located in a given grammar? How did it develop, and what possibilities are there for language change? To what extent does language change obey universal laws or tendencies?

The Linguistic Evidence Conference
The Linguistic Evidence Conference was founded by the initial collaborative research center, upon which the current research center 833 was built. This meeting developed into an established conference that attracts national and international experts in the field of experimental linguistics. It provides a crucial forum for the synthesis of data driven research and theory.

For further information, please contact:
Speaker: Prof. Dr. Sigrid Beck I Coordinator: Dr. Jennifer Wulsin, Dr. Birgit Umbreit
www.sfb833.uni-tuebingen.de/en/
Funding Period: July 2009 - June 2017

Promotion of young scientists
The next generation of scientists brings innovative input to the CRC's endeavor. The CRC is, in turn, determined to provide an inspiring and supportive environment for its young scientists. For example, its own "milestone program" supports PhD students with the writing of their thesis and a colloquium offers them the opportunity to exchange ideas.
The Collaborative Research Center 923 investigates “Threatened Social Orders”. The CRC understands “Social Orders” as arrangements of elements that are related to one another in a certain way; they are considered threatened when agents become convinced that their options for action are uncertain, when behavior and routines are called into question, when agents feel they cannot rely on each other, and when agents manage to establish a threat discourse.

Researchers in different fields within the social sciences and cultural studies studying the past and the present collaborate in order to develop a model of threatened orders, the objective being to:

- historicize current crisis diagnostics,
- investigate modes of rapid social change,
- renew space and time categories in the social sciences and cultural studies, and
- elaborate a platform for the social sciences and cultural studies in an age of globalization.

These broad goals are achievable because ‘order’ is central to political and social thought in multiple disciplines and epochs. Joining this concept to ‘threatened’ furnishes a valuable lens through which to scrutinize current interdisciplinary debates on order, crisis, modernization, social change and revolution, risk, security/insecurity, vulnerability, resilience, and emotion.

By connecting threat and order in this way, the existential aspects of a given threat can be analyzed, along with the constancy and variance of a given order. From this modest starting point, it is possible to answer questions fundamental to the social sciences and cultural studies in the 21st century.

The CRC 923 encompasses 19 research projects which are supervised by 28 senior researchers and carried out by 31 doctoral students as well as 10 postdocs.

For further information, please contact:

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Ewald Frie  Coordinator: Andrea Kirstein

www.sfb923.uni-tuebingen.de

Funding Period: July 2015 - June 2019
The interdisciplinary Collaborative Research Center 1070 Resource Cultures aims to expand the economically biased view on resources and explores how the use of resources triggers social and cultural dynamics. More than 20 projects with over 60 scientists are working hand in hand at the CRC 1070: archaeologists, ethnologists, geographers, historians, classical philologists and economic historians. The wide spectrum of disciplines within the Collaborative Research Center offers the unique possibility to study how resources are culturally defined and how these processes affect the forming, sustaining and changing of societies with an unprecedented historical depth and on a broad geographic scale. On one hand, tangible resources such as natural raw materials and trade goods play an important role in the making and breaking of societies, on the other intangible resources such as knowledge or social relations can contribute to the formation of cultural and social identities. The interrelation between materials, structures and systems of belief within resource complexes is another focus of research in the Collaborative Research Center. Social processes such as migration, social mobility and wealth, but also destruction and armed conflicts will be examined from an innovative perspective. Research topics of the individual projects span over a wide geographical frame: From Scandinavia to southern Africa, from the Iberian peninsula to South Asia – and reach far back into history: from processes of spatial development by Neanderthals to prehistoric mining of ore on the Iberian Peninsula, the Greek and Phoenician ‘colonization’ in the Mediterranean and the conversion and re-evaluation of resources by medieval Vikings to the use of resources in religious contexts in contemporary India.

This broad interdisciplinary approach offers a unique perspective on the role of resources in various cultures and times, so that the whole idea of resources can be assessed in new ways. The focus of the Collaborative Research Center is on the investigation of three socio-cultural dynamics, i.e. multidimensional processes linked with the use of resources, which structures the CRC 1070 in the following project divisions:

Project Division A: Developments - Resources and Processes of Social Change
Project division A. concentrates on diachronic studies about the role of resources in processes of social and cultural change. The focus will be on historical situations in which access to raw materials and natural products was granted locally, regionally or continuously through established ways of distribution. The thematic key aspects of the case studies will be questions addressing resources and the emergence of hierarchies in prehistoric Europe, as well as resource use and the formation of states in the ancient Near East and the Mediterranean.

Project Division B: Movements - Resources and Spatial Development
Project division B. examines resources within the context of processes of spatial development and settlement, discussing resources as a point of central importance for these processes. There will be a focus on resource related preconditions for spatial development, but courses of event, further socio-cultural developments within the newly acquired region, as well as symbolic dimensions of the relevant resources will be included into the research.

Project Division C: Valuations - Resources and the Symbolic Dimensions of Cultures
The projects of division C are treating the aspect of value creation by resources. The central topic of the studies will be about valuation, meaning and use of resources in different contexts. The different kinds, media and contents of cultural representations of resources and resource dynamics will be addressed and the social effectiveness of the symbolic dimension of resources will be discussed. Additionally the projects will examine how reassessments, symbolizations and conversions account for the contextual change of meaning of resources, thus allowing different kinds of value creation.
Research Training Groups (rtg)

RTG 1662: Religious Knowledge in Pre-Modern Europe

The Research Training Group pursues two objectives. Firstly, to establish the concept of “religious knowledge” as an interdisciplinary research concept. Secondly, it aims to use this concept to describe the development of European society with its self-assumed values of tolerance, secularity, rationality, as well as the differentiation of knowledge and education, legislation, politics, religion, the arts and literature. Christianity understands itself as a religion based on revelation. Canonical texts usually assume knowledge of revelation to be intangible. It could only become a guiding principle for action by constituting meaningful forms of communication and practice. This is what the research training group understands by “religious knowledge.” The research centers on the circumstances under which this religious knowledge was generated. The focus lies especially on the dynamic processes and the arenas of controversial negotiation that characterised its development in interdependence with revelation-based knowledge.

Central Theses

- Societal change was not only a result of a perspective shift with regards to ideas. Rather, the very modes of transfer and transformation of religious knowledge were also – in fact, especially – crucial in the evolution of those philosophical approaches, differentiations and structures of argumentation which provided one of the foundations of modern society.
- Within these complex processes of negotiation, ritual, annotative, aesthetic and empirical processes had an especially prominent role.

- These processes of transformation also caused considerable interplay and the shift of demarcations between religious and other knowledge. Ultimately, this led to changes in the function of revelation-based knowledge as guiding principle for action.

For further information, please contact:
Speaker: Prof. Dr. Matthias Bauer
www.uni-tuebingen.de/en/34380

RTG 1808: Ambiguity - Production and Perception

It is the aim of this Research Training Group (RTG) to show that by a collaborative approach of language-oriented disciplines new insights may be gained into the production and perception of ambiguity, i.e. when it comes into being and when it is resolved. The pursuit of this aim is based on the conviction that ambiguity is an excellent paradigm for developing new ways of collaboration between the various language-oriented disciplines.

Field PS-: Production, non-strategic
- Usage of ambiguous linguistic units without actually intending to produce an ambiguous utterance
- Coincidental or unintended ambiguity
- Ambiguity paradox: What is the explanation for the fact that such a large amount of utterances produced contain ambiguities which do not become apparent in their respective communicative situations and are often not even recognized as such by either the speaker or the hearer?

Field PS+: Production, strategic
- Double or multiple meanings are deliberately taken into account (no misunderstandings)
- Indirectness (i.e. politeness)
- Ambiguity is considered as adequate or even necessary by the speaker (i.e. as a means of persuasion in political speech)
- Central to literary texts (differing interpretations of one text passage)
- Specific ambiguity avoidance (i.e. in judicial speeches, legal contracts etc.)

Field RS-: Perception, non-strategic
- Emergence of ambiguity in the act of perception without being caused by any specific intent or strategy
- Triggering of ambiguity (i.e. mishearings or historic/syntactic reanalysis)
- Highly context-specific ambiguity resolution (i.e. through linguistic economy on the speaker’s side) dependent on hearer’s strategies

Field RS+: Perception, strategic
- Part of a strategic calculation
- Linguistic utterances are intentionally reinterpreted by the hearer (ambiguity resolution)
- Ambiguous statements are interpreted as univocal (ambiguity resolution)

For further information, please contact:
Speaker: Prof. Dr. Matthias Bauer
www.uni-tuebingen.de/en/34380
Cultural Studies in Literary Interzones is the first Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate Program in the Humanities selected and funded by the EU. The program took in its first PhD students in 2010 and admitted the last group in 2014. It is designed to nurture and promote research in the field of comparative literatures, visual culture and cultural anthropology, in a dynamic, multi-center and cosmopolitan environment. Co-ordinated by the University of Bergamo (Italy), the Interzones Consortium consists of 5 Degree-Awarding Partners, including the University of Tübingen, and 11 Associate Members from around the world. In the course of their 3-year program, our doctoral candidates are required to pursue their studies in universities situated in four different countries.

The Doctorate's scientific agenda focuses on thinking in a non-identitarian way about the complexities, overlaps, divisions but also similarities which structure cultural, literary and artistic environments across nations, social classes, genders, ideological commitments, or historical periods. Social and cultural entities such as the “nation,” for example, currently tend to be conceptualized mainly in terms of their limits and contours. As a consequence, the tools (such as identity, otherness, difference, colonization, entropy, etc.) with which artistic productions are analyzed have tended to reproduce pre-existing ideas of what it might mean to have (or not have) a nation, an ethnicity, a personality, a culture. We think of these entities and modes of being as areas of interaction, as zones: mental conditions, spaces, polysystemic meeting-places (and sometimes battlegrounds), sites not only of contestation or compliance but of invention and creativity. We want to ask: how do the inhabitants of such interzonal spaces and conditions exist?

The program explicitly invited innovative project proposals prepared to strike out into new territories. In its 8-year funding period, the program will have fostered 43 international PhD students from a wide variety of national backgrounds. 23 of these will have completed their PhDs in Tübingen.

For further information, please contact:
Speaker in Tübingen: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Hotz-Davies
www.uni-tuebingen.de/intrel/mundus/interzone.html

Cultural and Conflict Franco-German Research Training Group

The graduate school enables interdisciplinary studies and bilateral access to research in „culture and conflict“. It offers the prospect to query the accretuation of French-German polarity as well as the totalizing conceiving of culture. It is also based on the assumption that our modern societies have become much more heterogeneous and atomized due to the emergence of new systems of interaction, migration and mobilization that converge in the phenomenon of globalization. This consists of a deep change in our ways of living and hence on our language as well as on literary and artistic production. The study of conflicts, translated into these altered forms of expression, thus requires a new reading of cultural theories and of cultural products.

The main focus is on French-German relations, which reflect the rivalries and constructions of diametrically opposed identities. They are also permitting the research of antagonism like democracy vs authoritarian system or enlightenment vs romantic demonism.

The transcultural point of view allows us to analyze:

- conflict in various cultural theories
- existing French-German conflicts on the level of modern historical events
- presentation of conflicts in French and German texts and visual culture
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For further information, please contact:
Speaker in Aix-en-Provence: Dr. Dorothee Kimmich  I  Coordinator Aix-en-Provence: Dorothea Hering
www.uni-tuebingen.de/en/277581
In recent scholarship, aesthetics has been generally discussed within an evolutionary context. Despite this tendency, the discussion is still overshadowed by a powerful and very influential idealistic theory of aesthetics. This PhD research training program, however, is looking for yet a third way: neither does it seek the answers in the claim of an anthropological consistency as evolutionary aesthetics does, nor does it adhere to the idea of a teleologically based understanding of autonomous aesthetics. It therefore does not begin research on the basis of theoretical writings but with reflections about art within literary texts or works of art themselves.

All these different types, figures, and topoi of aesthetic reflection have been grouped by the PhD network under the heading of “aesthetic (self-)reflection”. The network intends to introduce this term as a concept of interdisciplinary research. Based on this concept it aims to open up reflection for “another aesthetics” in all its forms, functions and socio-cultural meanings.

In medieval research, the principle is still valid that castle and nobility are closely linked in the middle ages. Recent research in the fields of History, German Studies and Archeology have led to new dates for the foundation of castles, as well as a re-evaluation of their economic and military functions and the meaning of single groups of the nobility e.g. the “ministeriality” (lower gentry) for these fortresses. The Graduate School wants to examine this topic in an international and interdisciplinary way with the basis of this recent research.

A closely intertwined regional study concerning the phenomenon “Castle and Nobility” shall be done on three different levels: firstly space and resources, secondly status and thirdly perception. The results shall be discussed in comparison with international and interdisciplinary research.

The study of human prehistory relies on several independent lines of evidence: excavated artifacts, human skeletal remains, human DNA, records of animal and plant remains, and reconstructed dispersal histories of human languages. As these are the domains of different fields of the Humanities and the Natural Sciences (Archeology, Paleoanthropology, Genetics and Linguistics respectively), our understanding of human prehistory can only be furthered with transdisciplinary research. Our understanding of the very early history of modern humans, i.e. the migration out of Africa 50-100 kyrs ago, their initial range expansions and patterns of contact with other hominid populations, has undergone a genuine revolution in recent years. This was made possible by joint efforts of geneticists and paleoanthropologists. It is the researcher’s strong conviction that a similar surge of new insight is imminent with regard to intermediate time depths of prehistory – the upper Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, comprising events such as the peopling of the New World and the migrations following the Neolithic revo-

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The pervasiveness of digital data has revolutionized many areas of science. This trend includes the Humanities where a new research paradigm of Digital Humanities (DH) has been established. This paradigm crucially relies on the availability of digital archives that store the objects of interest, such as cultural heritage data, digital editions, media objects, and large collections of spoken and written language. The University of Tübingen has taken a pioneering role both nationally and internationally in DH research since the 1970s.

CLARIN, the Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure, is a Pan-European federation of data and service centres that support DH researchers. The Tübingen CLARIN Centre provides an infrastructure that actively supports language-based research in the Humanities and social sciences. The Tübingen Centre serves as the national hub of nine German data centres within the CLARIN federation. It offers easy web-based access to a wide range of digital language materials and services, including electronic dictionaries, linguistically annotated text collections, and software tools for the automatic analysis and visualization of language. As a data centre, it encourages DH researchers to follow best practices for creating, processing, and archiving digital language data and to adopt open access policies that facilitate the sharing and reuse of digital data.

CLARIN member countries in Europe

CLARIN
For further information, please contact:
CLARIN-D Director: Prof. Dr. Erhard Hinrichs | Coordinator: Dr. Thorsten Trippel
www.sfs.uni-tuebingen.de/ascl/clarin-center.html

Priority Program 1727: XPraG.de (Experimental Pragmatics)

For further information, please contact:
Central Coordination of the XPrag.de Priority Program: PD Dr. Ulrike Sauerland | Prof. Dr. Petra Schumacher
www.xprag.de/

The overall goal of XPrag.de is to develop a precise pragmatic theory that is informed by evidence using experimental methods. The program is addressed at researchers in linguistics, psychology, neuroscience, philosophy and related fields who seek to advance pragmatic theory by simultaneously formulating formally explicit models of the cognitive mechanisms underlying pragmatics and testing these models using experimental methods. The new field of Experimental Pragmatics has emerged gradually since 2004, primarily through efforts in Germany and other parts of Europe. Experimental Pragmatics represents a new approach to pragmatics, which is one of the most challenging areas of linguistic theory, where progress has been difficult. Three reasons why progress in pragmatics has been slow are the absence of formally explicit models and correspondingly precise hypotheses, the lack of relations from pragmatic theory to cognitive mechanisms, and the sole reliance on natural observation, which is a coarse-grained method, to test hypotheses.

The three following projects within the DFG Priority-Program XPrag.de are located at the Faculty of Humanities in Tübingen:

ProComPrag: Probabilistic computational models of pragmatic inference
Principal investigators: Michael Frank, PhD
Prof. Dr. Gerhard Jäger
Judith Degen, PhD (Stanford)
This project pursues a game theoretic approach to explain the production and interpretation of quantifiers and gradable adjectives with models of probabilistic social reasoning. Drawing on methods from mathematical psychology and corpus linguistic the project will develop probabilistic models that aim to predict quantitative patterns in production and interpretation of quantifiers and gradable adjectives in context.

CiC: Composition in Context: Contextual Influences on Processing of Event-Coercion
Principal investigator: Dr. Oliver Bott
The project „Composition in Context“ investigates the interaction of contextual information with shifts in meaning during the composition of complex expressions (= coercion). Building on existing work on coercion phenomena, the project studies interactions between the sentence and the larger discourse context.

OtDeTEx: Obligatory Triggers: Experimental Evidence
Principal investigator: Prof. Dr. Sigrid Beck
The aim of the project is to find experimental evidence for or against the predictions of two competing theories on the obligatory insertion of presupposition triggers.

ObTrEx: Obligatory Triggers: Experimental Evidence
Principal investigator: Prof. Dr. Sigrid Beck
The aim of the project is to find experimental evidence for or against the predictions of two competing theories on the obligatory insertion of presupposition triggers.
For further information, please contact:
Principal investigator: Prof. Dr. Christian Leitz
www.tempeltexte.uni-tuebingen.de/

Projects funded by the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

The Temple as the Canon of Egyptian Religious Literature

The research unit titled The Temple as the Canon of Egyptian Religious Literature is a twelve year research project in Egyptology aimed at deciphering the content of temple texts—the largest contiguous body of ancient Egyptian literature. The temple texts arose from the flurry of temple construction which began during the Ptolemaic era following the conquest of Egypt by Alexander the Great. This building activity continued for more than four centuries, until the 2nd century AD. These Egyptian temples were adorned to an unprecedented extent with hieroglyphic inscriptions about cults, festivals, religious topography, myths, divine constellations, and architectural history. Although most of these structures are no longer standing, more than 10 thousand pages of hieroglyphic texts from these “libraries of stone” have since been published. The researchers first classify the texts according to their content, form and narrative, and view them in the context of where they were found. The researchers will also focus on symbolic and allegorical interpretation of the hieroglyphics and attempt to comprehensively assess the texts, with a focus on the subject matter as a codification of Egyptian religious traditions in temples of the Greco-Roman period. Ultimately, a systematic overview of core content, internal links, defined formats and the problems of historically interpreting the Ptolemaic-Roman temple decorations will be created.

A comprehensive database is the central instrument for documenting and classifying the texts. In it, each temple text will be thoroughly recorded for the first time using all the available data, including publication/bibliography, date, inscription location, corresponding texts and parallels, genre, content, as well as linguistic, graphic and editorial characteristics. International cooperation in this project is very important; the researchers from Tübingen maintain close contacts with the Institut Français d’Archéologie Orientale in Cairo and with Cairo University.

For further information, please contact:
Principal investigator: Prof. Dr. Mischa Meier
www.haw.uni-heidelberg.de/forschung/forschungsstellen/malalas/projekt.de.html

Chronographia of John Malalas

The aim of this 12-year research project funded by the Heidelberg Academy is to establish John Malalas as the father of Byzantine historiography—and also to analyze his work to gain new insights about the treatment of the past in the critical period between late antiquity and the early middle ages.

John Malalas wrote his Chronographia in the 6th century. In 18 volumes, it tells the history of the world starting with Adam and Eve and ending in the author’s time. The Chronographia is an extremely valuable document for historical research, because it is the earliest known example of Byzantine world history—a historiographic genre which had a lasting influence on medieval and later forms of historical writing.

The Chronographia of John Malalas provides an example of how history was handled during the Byzantine millennium. In addition, Malalas’ work is significant for reconstructing political events and also sheds light on cultural and religious history, as well as the attitudes of the day. In these areas, it provides valuable insights that are unequalled by other, contemporary historical works. Malalas’ Chronographia also provides snippets of interesting and unprecedented views in certain aspects of ancient history. For example Malalas’ writings contain a completely different portrayal of the relationship between Nero and the Christians. There, the Roman emperor is described as friendly to the Christians. In his work, Malalas supplies important clues indicating that in the period of late antiquity, varying opinions about Nero’s treatment of Christians were apparently discussed, even among Christians.

Analyzing the chronicles of the periods of late antiquity and medieval times has become an important area of research. During the course of this revival, more light is being shed on the tradition of Malalas’ texts. For some years, an edition of the Greek text has been available that meets scholarly standards.
COST Action 15101: Comparative Analysis of Conspiracy Theories

Conspiracy theories play an increasingly visible role in the political life in Europe, not least because the EU itself is often viewed as a vast conspiracy. Although sometimes seen as harmless entertainment, conspiracy theories can contribute to extremism within particular regions, as well as fuelling tensions between nations. They can erode trust in democratic institutions and the media. Despite the increasing prominence of conspiracy theories in the age of the internet, there has been little systematic research on where they come from, how they work and what can be done about them. The aim of this Action is to develop an interdisciplinary and international network to provide a comprehensive understanding of conspiracy theories.

Existing research has tended to concentrate on specific national traditions, and is often confined to the perspective of a single discipline. In contrast this Action will adopt a comparative approach, investigating the causes, manifestations and effects of conspiracy theories in different regions and times, and drawing on insights from history, politics, sociology, anthropology, cultural studies and psychology. The Action will pursue the inquiry in three broad areas: the manifestations and modes of transmission of conspiracy theory in different historical and cultural contexts; the variety of actors and audiences involved in the production and consumption of conspiracy theory; and the psychological and cultural causes and political consequences of belief in conspiracy. Working closely with stakeholders, this Action will build a better understanding of conspiracy theories in order to develop an effective response to them.

Recent years have seen challenging new formulations of the flows of influence in transnational cultural configurations and developments. In the wake of the end of the cold-war and the demise of the tripartite conceptual division of the First, Second and Third Worlds, the latter concept has been superseded by the notion of the “Global South”. This notion is a flexible one referring to the developing nations of the once-colonized sections of the globe, and it also registers an emergent perception of a new set of relationships between nations of the Global South as their respective connections to nations of the north (either USA/USSR or the old colonial powers) diminish in significance. New social and cultural connections have become evident. This project aims to explore the literary manifestations (in their often intermedial, networked forms) of those south-south cultural connections together with academic leaders from those societies and cultures.

Literary Cultures of the Global South

For further information, please contact:
Speaker: Prof. Dr. Dr. Michael Butter
http://www.cost.eu/

Literary cultures ("Schriftkulturen") are a particularly pregnant site of south-south cultural analysis as they represent the intersection of traditional and modern cultural forms, of south-south (and north-south) cultural exchange, particularly via modes of translation and interlingual hybridization, and refract various discourses of knowledge in a highly self-reflexive and critical fashion, thereby demanding and enabling an interdisciplinary dialogue with literary studies at its core. Hallowed connections between literary production and the postcolonial nation notwithstanding, transnational south-south literary connections have always characterized the (anti-)colonial, postcolonial and indeed contemporary digital epochs. Thus literary cultures form one of the central historical and contemporary networked sites of intercultural self-articulation in the Global South. It is the task of this project to explore those “lateral” south-south cultural connections by mobilizing a network of prominent Global-South universities (UFRJ, Brazil; UNAM, Mexico; Wits, South Africa; UCAD, Senegal; JNU, India) with other universities in the southern hemisphere (UNWA, Australia; SNU, Korea).
How does language work? For more than half a century, a single theory has dominated the science of language. On that view, language functions like a formal calculus: when a person utters a sentence, she selects the words that refer to the concepts she wants to convey, and strings them together according to a set of rules that determine how they were combined. While at first blush, this theory seems plausible, and even elegant, it has met with a wide variety of deep and sustained criticisms.

The quantitative linguistics research unit, funded by an Alexander von Humboldt research chair awarded to Harald Baayen, has been advancing a new framework for understanding language, based on the most successful and neurologically-supported learning mechanism psychology has to offer - discrimination learning. Under this framework, communication is not an all-or-non process, in which understanding is guaranteed. Rather, communication succeeds to the degree that interlocutors have learned to use language in similar ways. This offers a continuous and quantifiable way to investigate language.

Building on this conception, the group has developed a computational model with impressive explanatory power. The model has broad application, and has helped elucidate everything from the rate at which adults read words on a page, to the time it takes a to master the usage of color terms. One of the most provocative results of this research concerns cognitive aging. The model suggests that the reason older adults perform so differently on psychometric tests than their younger counterparts is because of how much knowledge they have accumulated over the lifespan. Such a finding sharply calls into question traditional views of “cognitive decline” - even suggesting that in healthy ageing, there may be no such thing.

The ERC Advanced Grant Language Evolution: The Empirical Turn (Evolaemp) is a project that pursues a highly interdisciplinary approach to the empirical study of cultural language evolution. It draws on ideas and methods from historical linguistics and typology, natural language processing, biology, bioinformatics, computer science, and statistics. This approach not only replaces the off-the-shelf tools from bioinformatics that are currently in use in computational language classification by linguistically-informed algorithms, esp. multiple sequence alignment techniques; identifying characteristic traits of language evolution via exploratory data analysis, guided by the theory of complex systems and employing cutting-edge methods from machine learning such as kernel methods and causal inference; and developing, implementing and testing models of language evolution that correctly predict the statistical fingerprints of language evolution, i.e. pay sufficient attention to the domain specific features of language evolution that have no counterpart in biological evolution.
Junior Research Groups & Emmy Noether Program

Junior Research Groups

Dr. Jeanne Féaux de la Croix (Ethnology)
Junior Research Group: Cultural History of Water in Central Asia
Across the world, there are enormous inequalities in people’s access to sweet water, with climate change likely to further exacerbate the situation. As a group of anthropologists and archaeologists, this research group sets out to trace people’s changing attitudes towards water in Central Asia. It pursues historically-informed research on moral economies of water in a landlocked region where most agriculture depends on irrigation. It asks in what contexts water in Central Asia was and is treated as sacred, as a public or private resource (in various formats) or used to produce other resources such as electricity and cotton.

Dr. Michael Franke (Language Processing)
Junior Research Group: Data-oriented modeling of language games
The group studies processes of interactive linguistic decision making: speakers choose utterances, listeners choose interpretations, where ideally each takes the other’s perspective into account. To this end, the group develops probabilistic cognitive models that predict experimental data from language production and comprehension.

Dr. Virginia Herrmann (Institute for Ancient Near Eastern Studies)
Junior Research Group: Forging the Political Landscape in Iron Age Turkey
This project comprises excavation and survey in and around the archaeological site of Zincirli, Turkey, the Iron Age (ca. 900–600 BCE) city of Sam'al. This city was the capital of a small Aramaean kingdom on the cultural and geographic border between Anatolia and Syria, an area that alternated between small-scale autonomy and inclusion in the periphery of much larger regional or imperial polities, such as the Hittite and Neo-Assyrian empires. The project’s primary aim is to investigate the relationship among political structure, settlement organization, social groups, and daily life practices, as the political landscape developed from post-imperial fragmentation to local territorial consolidation and back to imperial domination.

Dr. Fabian Schulz (Ancient History)
Leader of the Emmy Noether Junior Research Group: Power and Influence: Influencing Emperors between Antiquity and the Middle Ages
Since rulers of the Imperial Roman Period and the early middle ages occupied the highest (secular) position, individuals who exerted influence on them enjoyed a great extent of power. As a consequence, there was bitter rivalry between the various agents and much thinking about legitimate and illegitimate influence. These exercises and concepts of personal influence are the topic of the new Emmy-Noether junior research group.

Emmy Noether Program

Dr. Virginia Herrmann (Institute for Ancient Near Eastern Studies)
Junior Research Group: Forging the Political Landscape in Iron Age Turkey

Dr. Fabian Schulz (Ancient History)
Leader of the Emmy Noether Junior Research Group: Power and Influence: Influencing Emperors between Antiquity and the Middle Ages
Research Cooperation with East Asia

Tübingen University’s Branch Offices in East Asia

The Tübingen Center for Japanese Studies (TCJS) has existed for more than twenty years. It is located on the historic grounds of Doshisha University’s Imadegawa main campus, next to Kyoto’s ancient imperial palace in the south. Since 2009, TCJS’s many tasks have been managed by resident Director Dr. Michael Wachutka, who is assisted by a secretary, a host family coordinator, and four Japanese language teachers.

The center’s library holds approximately 2,500 Japan-related reference books in German and English, which are often difficult to find in Japanese libraries. Due to its location in Kyoto, which is unique Europe-wide, the University of Tübingen offers its Japanese Studies students an extraordinary opportunity to learn and experience the language and culture of Japan on location. Since its foundation, over 650 students have completed part of their education at TCJS.

During their time in Kyoto, students reside with Japanese host families. The homestay offers deep insight into the host country’s lifestyle that is otherwise very difficult to gain. Those who want to experience Japan, especially the culture of everyday life, can only achieve this goal by living together with locals on a long-term daily basis.

In addition, TCJS regularly organizes symposiums, international workshops and guest lectures by scholars from Japan, Europe, and the U.S., thus providing insight into the current Japan-related international research. By coming in contact with renowned experts, students as well as the broader public can familiarize themselves with the latest research and benefit from the stimulating academic interaction available at the Tübingen Center for Japanese Studies in Kyoto.

For further information, please contact:
Coordinator: Dr. Michael Wachutka
www.uni-tuebingen.de/en/6237

European Centre for Chinese Studies

The European Center for Chinese Studies at Peking University (ECCS) was founded by the Universities of Tübingen and Copenhagen in 2001, in cooperation with the renowned Peking University (PKU). It was joined by the University of Frankfurt a.M. in 2002. Affiliated to the PKU Department of Chinese Language and Literature, ECCS maintains an office and classrooms on PKU campus. The ECCS Office is staffed with a Managing Director sent by the University of Tübingen, supported by a Chinese Program Manager. The teaching staff is made up of experienced Chinese teachers with substantial expertise in teaching Chinese as a foreign language.

In the fourteen years from its founding until now, more than 1,000 students from the European partner universities were sent to ECCS to take part in a tailored one-semester language program. Tübingen students in the new B.A. study program „Chinese Studies with a Vocational Focus“, established in 2012, even stay two semesters. Besides the teaching program for European students, ECCS conducts an academic exchange program for PKU faculty members and language teachers to come to the European partner universities, mostly for one semester, to pursue their research studies and to teach courses.

For further information, please contact:
Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Achim Mittag
www.eccsbeijing.org/
The Tübingen Center for Korean Studies at Korea University (TUCKU) in Seoul was established in spring 2012 and is located on the campus of Korea University. Its managing director is Dr. des. Sun-Ju Choi. The Korea University was established in 1905 and is one of the oldest and most renowned private universities in Korea. Talented students and highly qualified exchange professors from Korea University are granted scholarships from Tübingen University. In addition, TUCKU organizes regular meetings with the Korean Association of Tübingen Alumni, field trips, symposiums and guest lectures by scholars from Korea and Europe on research projects examining Modern Korea to ensure a stimulating academic environment both for students and academic staff. TUCKU has hosted and co-hosted several international conferences such as “Green Energy” in Korea, “Ego Documents in History” and “Colonial Memories” in collaboration with Korea University. A trilateral research network between Korea University (Seoul), Dōshisha University (Kyoto) and the University of Tübingen was launched in summer 2014. The current BMBF/DAAD project “Literary Cultures of the Global South”, in collaboration with the Seoul National University, brings together leading researchers to investigate literary cultural exchanges of the South, which represent the intersection of the traditional and modern literary cultures of the Global South. Furthermore, MAKES (Master of Korean European Studies), a dual master’s program in cooperation with the College of Education and Graduate School of International Studies at the Seoul National University, has been established with the generous support of DAAD in 2014, offering a two-year intensive program for students who aspire to deepen their knowledge of Modern Korea and Asia.

The European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan (ECCF-ERCCT) was founded in 2008 and is jointly funded by the University of Tübingen and the Taiwanese CCK Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange to promote social science oriented research on Taiwan at the Ph.D. and Postdoc level in Europe and enhance exchange between Taiwan and Europe in this academic field. The center serves as a platform for young European and Taiwanese scholars to present, discuss and pursue their research projects on a short-term (Visiting Fellows) or long-term (Resident Fellows) basis. Established scholars from Europe and Taiwan are invited regularly to Tübingen in order to provide research-related feedback to ERCCT research fellows and to share with them their theoretical and methodological expertise. Working languages at the center are Chinese and English. Empirical research in Taiwan is supported by a tutorial system set up together with first-class academic institutions in Taiwan to help ERCCT fellows conduct fieldwork and come into contact with Taiwanese researchers. The center also identifies highly qualified young scholars in the field of Taiwan studies for special ERCCT fellowships granted by the ROC’s Ministry of Education, and organizes workshops and conferences on Taiwan-related topics in cooperation with our partner institutions, in addition to an annual Documentary Film Festival. In recognition of the center’s achievements the CCK Foundation promoted the ERCCT to one of its overseas centers in 2014. The center is run by its founder, Prof. Dr. Gunter Schubert, a managing and co-managing director (Stefan Braig and Dr. Stefan Fleischauer) responsible for the coordination of its different activities, and a small support team.
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Research Topics within the Departments

The Faculty of Humanities, which comprises approximately 25 distinct fields of study, exhibits the greatest diversity of any faculty within the University of Tübingen. The spectrum contains both historically oriented sciences as well as others, which adopt a more contemporary focus. The diverse fields within the faculty are remarkable for the multiplicity of research methodologies they adopt, ranging from analytic, to hermeneutic and empirical approaches. This breadth is not only evident between fields, but also often within particular disciplines and in many areas the boundary with research approaches from the social sciences is fluid. Across disciplines, the Faculty of Humanities attaches a high importance to an informed intercultural perspective, especially with respect to relevant languages.

The faculty brings together fields from across the Humanities and Cultural Sciences, grouping them into five departments: The Department of Art and Ancient Studies (FB1), The Department of Oriental and Asian Studies (FB2), The Department of History (FB3), The Department of Modern Languages (FB4) and The Department of Philosophy, Rhetoric and Media Studies (FB5).

Thus, it is not only plurality of research methodologies, but also the diverse subject matter that forms a cornerstone of the faculty’s scientific identity. The wide array of individual disciplines furthermore assures a strong basis for inter- and transdisciplinary research of the kind that can only be accomplished given a substantial foundation in a variety of disciplines. Because of its size and diversity, the Faculty of Humanities is able to incorporate a broad spectrum of larger-scale projects, such as the aforementioned Collaborative Research Centers, Graduate Academies or Research Centers. Yet, the strength and relevance of the research in the Humanities reposes equally on the quality and abundance of the work carried out within the particular disciplines that make up the Faculty of Humanities, work that often belongs to the cutting edge of international research. The relevance of the Humanities and their relationship to contemporary intellectual and societal issues is due in large part to the freedom accorded to scholars to search out for themselves the issues in need of investigation.

In order to provide an overview of the research foci within the Faculty of Humanities, the following pages provide a brief presentation of current research topics and goals in the various fields in the faculty. Further information can be found on the personal websites of individual scholars as well as on the webpages of the various institutes and departments. Additionally, information about professors and principal investigators can be found on the university’s FIT (Forschungs-Informations Tübingen – Research Information Tübingen) database. FIT provides an up-to-date overview of ongoing research projects at the University of Tübingen and consolidates information about the research topics addressed, scholarly participating and funding agencies involved in the project. Furthermore, it compiles research portfolios for individual professors containing information about their research focus, contact data and publications.

Selected Monographs

Sergiusz Michalski

Steffen Patzold

Bernhard Pörksen und Hanne Detel

Richard Posamentir

Jörg Robert

Thomas Sattig

Sebastian Schmidt-Hofner

Sebastian Thies

Konrad Volk

Russel West-Pavlov

Thomas Ede Zimmermann und Wolfgang Sternefeld

Research within the Departments
Department 1: Arts and Ancient Studies

Institute for Ancient Near Eastern Studies (IANES)

Egyptology
- Greco-Roman era (temple writings and demotic texts)
- Large scale editorial projects, e.g. production of editions of the temple writings of Philae, the sanctuary of the Temple of Hibis
- Religion in the last millennium of Egyptian history

Ancient Near Eastern Philology
- Babylonian and Assyrian cultural treasures
- Analysis and publication of anthologies of Sumerian literature
- Planned excavation in Oman and Tell Halaf (Syria)

Near Eastern Archeology
- Excavation and fieldwork projects in the Near East (currently Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Syria and Turkey)
- Cooperation with the German Archeological Institute in Cairo
- German Research Foundation (DFG) long term project around excavation in Qatna

Pre and Early History (New Section)
- Archeological excavation in Troy
- Excavations in Cyprus (late bronze age hill-settlement)
- Burial grounds in Varna (Bulgaria)

Section for Medieval Archeology
- The crusader city of Arsuf in Israel
- Archeology of medieval castles
- Archeology of the Reformation

Classical Archeology
- Visual studies and fieldwork on archeological remnants from the late second millennium until late antiquity, cultural context in border regions of antiquity
- Technology transfer in the ancient world
- Numismatics in the ancient world
- Litterae Aureae

Institute for Classical Philology
- Ancient Greek
  - Platonism from the 1st Century BC until late antiquity
  - Hellenistic culture (philosophy, poetry, religion)
- Latin Studies
  - Latin literature from antiquity until the early modern age
  - Latin and Greek literature in the Greco-Roman period, pastoral poetry
  - History of the influence of Latin language and culture in Europe, especially Latin as a world language

Institute for Art History
- Reformation and art, theory of art, methodological issues in Art History
- Visual arts of the early modern age, visual and material aspects of power
- Image media and image theory, research network “Wahrnehmungsräume” (spaces of perception)

Institute of Musicology
- Medieval & Renaissance Music (Gregorian Chant and polyphonic music)
- Style analysis of classical and romantic music (Mozart et al.)
- History of Musicology
- Music & dance, Music & theatre, Music & film

Professorship for Religious Studies
- Celtic history and culture
- Victorian orientalism: identity and cultural imperialism
**Department 2: Oriental and Asian Studies (AOI)**

**Cultural Anthropology**
- Anthropology of childhood and medical anthropology
- Regional focus on South and Central Asia
- Rituals and religious knowledge

**Indology**
- Religious history, particularly Buddhism and Jainism
- Traditional Indian forms of theatre: texts, aesthetic theories and performative cultures
- South Indian studies, Kerala (society, politics, culture, gender studies), Malayalam (language and literature)

**Japanese Studies**
- Intellectual and religious history: Shintō and Buddhism; discussion of Japanese values
- Linguistics: semiotics and language policy
- Modern Japan: Technology, politics, media and society, eHumanities

**Chinese Studies**
- Social, economic, technological and scientific history of pre-modern China; Marco Polo
- Greater China studies: ruling in China; migration; Taiwan studies
- Chinese language, literature and history: history and literature in the Ming and early Qing Dynasties (ca. 1530-1680)

**Korean Studies**
- Korean diaspora and migration
- Colonial history
- History of the cold war

**Oriental and Islamic Studies**
- Islamic intellectual history (late middle ages until the early modern era), especially history of theology and philosophy
- History and culture of the modern Near East
- Research center for Islamic numismatics (FINT)
Department 3: History

Ancient History
- History of the Roman Empire and late antiquity, history of religion in antiquity
- Historical regional studies, agrarian structure and the relationship between urban and rural areas
- Historiography and biography

Medieval History
- Carolingian France, Italy in the mid and late middle ages
- Numerous research and editing projects, for example edition of the Carolingian Capitularies (international research network centered in Tübingen)
- Henry VII, Holy Roman Emperor

Modern History
- Churches as loci of (political) transactions and general religious history in the early modern age
- History of the lower classes and poverty
- Political cultural heritage in Germany, Great Britain and Ireland in the 19th and 20th centuries

Contemporary History
- War and society, the history of ideas and society after the Second World War
- Transatlantic dimensions of national histories
- American foreign and security policy in the 20th century

Historical Regional Studies and Ancillary Sciences
- Religious women of medieval Europe
- Interdisciplinary research on witchcraft, the cultural significance and social function of magic up to the present
- Catastrophes and environmental history of the Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc
- Medieval castles

Eastern European History
- History of Russia and the Soviet Union from the end of the 17th century to the present
- The history of Eastern Central and South East Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries
DEPARTMENT 4: MODERN LANGUAGES

International Literatures
• Project: “Wertwelten”

German Studies

Linguistics
• German grammar, theory and empirism
• Psycholinguistics
• German as a Second Language

Modern German Literature
• Critical editions
• Inter- and transculturality
• Intertextuality

Medieval Studies
• Medieval literature and language
• Dreams and visions in the pre-modern age
• Edition of anthologies

Scandinavian Studies
• The relationship between Latin and regional languages in medieval Scandinavia
• Medieval and contemporary scandinavian literature

English Studies

English Linguistics
• Grammar theory and semantics
• Psycholinguistic aspects of speech processing
• Information structure

English Literatures and Cultures
• Textures of objectivity
• Postcolonial theory and the sociological imagination

American Studies
• (De-)civilizing processes in America: relational sociology in American Studies
• Conspiracy theories from a comparative perspective

Romance Studies

Linguistics
• Discourse traditions
• Word play as a manifestation of linguistic dynamics

Literary Studies
• Fiction and Fictionality
• Ibero-american literatures and cultures
Slavic Studies

Linguistics
- The beginnings of Slavic studies: Czech dictionaries between the 16th and 18th centuries

Literary Studies
- Construction of intimacy in Russian culture
- Cultural self reflection in the literary medium
- Relationship between literature and philosophy in Russian culture of the 19th century

Institute for Linguistics

General and Quantitative Linguistics
- Formal analysis of various languages
- Quantitative and probabilistic aspects of language and language processing

Computational Linguistics
- Theoretical foundations of corpus linguistics
- Intelligent computer assisted language learning

Department 5: Philosophy, Rhetoric, Media Studies

Institute for Philosophy
- Theory of ethics with a focus on the philosophy of emotions, normative ethics, moral psychology
- Kant, in particular Kant’s theoretical philosophy and esthetics, the genesis of German idealism
- History of the philosophy of science, especially physics

Institute for Rhetoric
- History of the theory of esthetics and poetics
- Research on narration (especially narration and persuasion)
- Theory of rhetoric, history of rhetoric in Germany, Renaissance-Humanism and the theory of esthetics

Institute for Media Studies
- History and theory of film and television theory, transculturality of film and new media, dance, body-movement and its history, costume dramaturgy
- Communications and media theory, evolution of media and changes in career paths and competence profiles, staging of political discourse and the media, journalism and celebrity
- Image, Illustration, media and communications theory from a systematic historical perspective, esthetics and cultural theory
- Advertising and corporate communication, media culture, media and the theory of communications
The Forum Scientiarum is a central institution of the University of Tübingen that promotes the dialogue between the Sciences and the Humanities. It offers interdisciplinary courses on a wide variety of topics in which exchange between the (Natural) Sciences and the Humanities is paramount. In addition to regular seminars and lectures, there are summer school programs and many other intensive courses that take place throughout the year. Furthermore, the Forum Scientiarum selects 25 students every year from various academic fields to participate in a two-semester certificate program. The students take classes and conduct their own interdisciplinary research. The Forum Scientiarum organizes conferences and workshops on interdisciplinary topics and invites scholars to work at the Forum for a period of time. The Forum Scientiarum strives to promote exchange between all academic disciplines and to provide students and scholars with the opportunity to reflect upon their own academic work critically, and to position it in the overall structure of the university.

The Forum Scientiarum was founded with the support of the Udo Keller Foundation Forum Humanum, the Klett Foundation and the Protestant Regional Church of Württemberg. The Forum Scientiarum is located in the house of studies of the Udo Keller Foundation Forum Humanum at the University of Tübingen, Doblerstr. 33.

A Scientific Advisory Board of the university, on which the faculties are represented, supports the Forum Scientiarum in its work.

One of the main areas of specialization of the eScience-Center, a Core Facility of the University of Tübingen is dedicated to the "Digital Humanities". It supports all fields within the Humanities in their use of digital resources, methods and tools. In collaboration with the Information, Communication and Media Center (IMK), it creates and maintains sustainable infrastructure to achieve this goal.

Tübingen already occupies a leading position in international research projects in the area of eHumanities, for example in the LangBank project (Digital Infrastructure to Support the Study of Latin and Historical German), a project under the umbrella of the Bilateral Digital Humanities Program jointly funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the American National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and as the national coordinator of the pan-European project CLARIN.

Besides language resources, language learning and text sciences, for which annotation tools and the development of digital text editions are a priority, a particular focus of the Digital Humanities in Tübingen is on fields relating to objects and space, such as Art History and a number of areas within Archeology.

For further information about the E-Science Center:
http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/en/48177
Promotion of Young Researchers

GRADUATE ACADEMY

The Graduate Academy of the University of Tübingen is dedicated to promoting junior researchers. It is the umbrella organization for the graduate academies of the faculties, through which it also integrates the university’s doctoral training programs and doctoral training networks.

Doctoral candidates

Doctoral candidates are admitted to the Graduate Academy by applying for (and gaining) acceptance as a doctoral candidate by their faculty. In this way, the faculty confirms their eligibility as a doctoral candidate. For more information, candidates should consult the doctoral degree regulations of the Faculty of Humanities or visit the ILIAS Gateway.

Postdoctoral researchers aspiring to a tenured professorship

As a rule, postdoctoral scholars verify that they are members of the university by presenting an employment contract. Postdoctoral researchers from partner institutions contact us directly.

The Graduate Academy works to improve the quality of support and training for junior researchers through

- information and transparency
- qualification of doctoral researchers for an academic career as well as for professions outside the university
- promotion of interdisciplinary networking among doctoral candidates
- quality assurance

A further goal is to make the university more attractive for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers from Germany and abroad. The Graduate Academy actively promotes equal opportunities for women and men in fulfilling all of its tasks and regards this goal as an overall guiding principle of its work.

For further information, please contact:
Contact: Dr. Sibel Vurgun / Dr. Heike Winhart
www.uni-tuebingen.de/en/15967

FUNDING PROGRAMS FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHERS

JOIN US IN TÜBINGEN

Research Councils

German Research Council (DFG)
- Grants to support the initiation of international collaboration
- For: Postdocs, senior researchers
- Mercator Fellowships
- For: Postdocs, senior researchers from all countries

European Research Council
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
  » Individual fellowships for experienced researchers from all countries
- ERC Grants for top rank researchers from all countries

For further information:
DFG Funding: www.bit.ly/dfg_funding_programmes
European Funding: www.bit.ly/erc_funding

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
- Humboldt Research Award
  » For: Senior researchers from all countries; nomination submitted by German academics
- Humboldt Research Fellowship
  » For: Postdocs from all countries.
- Sofia Kovalevskaja Award
  » For: Top rank junior researchers from all countries
- Georg Forster Research Award
  » For: Outstanding, internationally recognized scientists from developing or transition countries
- Anneliese Maier Research Award
  » For: Outstanding, internationally recognized scientists from all countries, nominated by institutions in Germany
- Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award
  » For: Internationally renowned scientists from all countries

For further information:
Humboldt Funding
www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/home.html

DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service)
- Leibniz – DAAD Research Fellowships 2015
  » For: Postdocs (with PhD or equivalent) from all countries
- Research Stays for University Academics and Scientists
  » For: University teachers, scientists with doctoral degree from all countries
- Postdoctoral Researchers International Mobility Experience (P.R.I.M.E.)
  » For: Postdocs from all countries
- Bilateral Exchange of Academics
  » For: Postdocs (with PhD or equivalent) from selected countries

For further information:
DFG Funding: www.bit.ly/dfg_funding_programmes
European Funding: www.bit.ly/erc_funding
Humboldt Funding
www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/home.html
DAAD Funding

For further information:
Humboldt Funding
www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/home.html
DAAD Funding
Welcome Center for International Researchers in Tübingen

The Welcome Center provides service and support for international researchers at the University of Tübingen both before and upon their arrival in Tübingen and welcomes our international guests. We offer comprehensive everyday life support such as assistance with questions regarding visa applications and health insurance, support finding accommodation, and advice about family life in Germany, e.g. how to find appropriate schooling or kindergartens.

But that's not all! Our goal is to set up a network for international researchers in all of Tübingen's faculties and to help them find their way around life and work in Tübingen as quickly as possible. We cooperate with all educational institutions in Tübingen and work with many clubs and groups outside the university in order to help our guests and their families take advantage of the great variety of experiences available in Tübingen, for example by organizing guided tours, get-togethers and excursions. Our aim is to offer international scholars a full range of services so that they can do great research, enjoy life outside of the laboratory, and look forward to coming again.

If you are an international doctoral student, PhD or professor and are planning a research stay at the University of Tübingen, please contact us!

For further information, please contact: Kirsten Sonnenschein welcomecenter@uni-tuebingen.de www.uni-tuebingen.de/en/10161

Teach at Tübingen (T@T) - Call for Proposals

The University of Tübingen provides funding to expand teaching in English and to strengthen international cooperation between institutions. Are you a postdoc or PhD student at an advanced stage of your studies? Do you come from one of our (strategic) partner universities? Would you like to expand your teaching experience and individual research horizons with a working stay in Germany under the Teach at Tübingen (T@T) program?

T@T candidates must teach classes in English for approximately two hours per week during the regular semester.

Prerequisites:

- candidates must be at an advanced stage of their doctoral studies or already have their PhD
- they must have academic ties with the professor with whom they are placed
- the classes they offer must be made public and open to all students
- the planned length of the stay should be one to two semesters

Apply to the respective professor at the Faculty of Humanities, providing the following information:

- direct contact details
- information on the candidate (CV, publication list and teaching experience)
- teaching topic and type of class (lecture, seminar,...)
- abstract of the course you plan to teach
- partner university (see also on the University of Tübingen’s website: „strategische Partneruniversitäten“ (strategic partner universities))
- starting date and length of stay (max. two semesters)

For further information and deadlines:

www.uni-tuebingen.de/en/53035

Prerequisites:

- candidates must be at an advanced stage of their doctoral studies or already have their PhD
- they must have academic ties with the professor with whom they are placed
- the classes they offer must be made public and open to all students
- the classes they offer must be held in English
- the planned length of the stay should be one to two semesters
Join us in Tübingen

- M.A. in Social and Cultural Anthropology
- M.A. in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
- "Language Structures in German and International Languages" course (taught entirely in English and provide the opportunity of obtaining course credit. With TübAix researchers as well as German language courses and a wide range of cultural activities. The seminars are complemented by excursions to relevant European cities (Strasbourg, Berlin, Brussels) and visits to companies in the economically strong region of Baden-Württemberg. The programs are taught entirely in English and provide the possibility of obtaining course credit. With TübAix researchers as well as German linguistic collaboration between the University of Tübingen and the University of Maryland.

- M.A. in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
- M.A. in Social and Cultural Anthropology

German Courses

The University of Tübingen’s "Deutsch als Fremdsprache" (DaF) office provides a comprehensive program of German courses for international students.

Services: The Tübingen DaF-Program helps you to organize your study trip to Tübingen successfully, to improve your German, and to get to know Germany and the Germans better.

Would you like to take an intensive German course in August? Would you like to take an intensive German course before commencing your studies? Are you a PhD student, postdoc, or guest lecturer at our University and would like to take an evening course in order to learn enough German to make everyday life in Germany easier. Take a look at the "Deutsch als Fremdsprache" office’s semester program on our website!