

## KNOWING AND FORGETTING

In times of fake news and decreasing respect for scholarly knowledge all over the world, it is no coincidence that processes of forgetting and practices of non-knowledge have sparked the interest of historians of knowledge. New research discusses how forgetting can be seen as a way of dealing with the overflow of information and therefore become a catalyst for innovation. It can have therapeutic results and thus even influence one's identity (personal or group identity). Finally, forgetting can also be an explicit practice by putting knowledge aside – in one corner of an archive, for instance. That's why some have summarized this process by saying that next to the regimes of knowledge there are also regimes of ignorance.

At our conference, we would like to study the interference of these two regimes with each other. Some of the key questions will be concerned with the relation and mechanisms by which knowledge and memory are created and by which they are lost or even erased, about information flowing easily or instead impeded, twisted, falsified, never arriving in time, or simply not believed, on rumors and lies suddenly circulating widely while formerly trusted sources of knowledge are no longer trusted. All in all, this conference will emphasize contingency in life and history and will try to take failures, non-knowledge and forgetting seriously.

### CONTACT

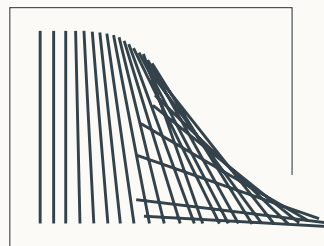
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## THREATENED ORDERS – SOCIETIES UNDER STRESS

Financial crises, natural and technical disasters, terrorist attacks and migration have all left significant marks on international politics, economies, societies, and cultures. Extreme situations like upheavals, revolutions, and disasters affect everyday life. Such circumstances make us aware of how fragile and contingent the foundations of our life and actions are. Extreme situations can also lead to rapid change in social perception and behavioral patterns. The SFB's research focuses on Europe from Antiquity to contemporary history. The projects analyze European, African, North and Latin American, Asian and Australian examples of threatened social orders.

One important criterion for the definition of a “threatened order” is that routines of everyday life or politics don't work anymore. Routines can be described as aggregated structures of actions which one does not question

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anymore. When they are disrupted or fail to work, this can be both cognitively and emotionally upsetting: Presumed knowledge and practices become uncertain instead of trustworthy, or even useless; problems occur which may generate feelings of ignorance and powerlessness, and there is a general uncertainty about the future. This open future, however, may also inspire hope and creativity; it may empower and encourage people to change routines. With regard to knowledge, the re-ordering process is therefore a process of both losing and creating it; the process entails a loss of understanding and attempts to grasp a new situation – sometimes with the help of old concepts and ideas, sometimes with new untried ones.



EBERHARD KARLS  
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## WHAT DO WE STILL KNOW? KNOWING AND FORGETTING IN TIMES OF THREAT



CONFERENCE  
BEDROHTE ORDNUNGEN IV

JUNE 28-30, 2018

EVANGELISCHES STIFT  
KLOSTERBERG 2, TÜBINGEN

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## DEBATES AND RHETORICS

28.06.2018

10.00 Renate Dürr (Tübingen): Introduction

10.30-12.00

**Keynote I – Anthony Grafton (Princeton): Philology and Divination in Early Modern Scholarship**

Chair: Renate Dürr (Tübingen)

12.00-13.00 Lunch Break

13.00-14.45

**Panel I: Dealing with (Un-)Certainties: Religious Debates in Late Antiquity**

Chair: Volker Drecolli (Tübingen)

Susanna Elm (Berkeley): Miracles as Evidence in the Writings of Julian the Emperor and his Opponents

Lisa Neumann (Tübingen): Apollonius of Tyana, the Ignorant Omniscient: Eusebius' and Sossianus Hierocles' „Interpretative Dispute in the context of the Conflict between Christian and Platonist Orders

Lucia Maddalena Tissi (Paris): Porphyry, Steuchus and the Journey of Oracles through Symphony and Conflict

14.45-15.15 Coffee Break

15.15-17.00

**Panel II: “Known and Unknown Unknowns” / Practices of Knowing and Not-Knowing in Media**

Chair: Klaus Sachs-Hombach (Tübingen)

Vanessa Ossa/ Lukas R.A. Wilde (Tübingen): Reassuring Knowledge and the Thrill of the Unknown

Lars Koch (Dresden): Unknown Knowns. Comments on the Relation between Danger, Perception and Imagination

Michael C. Frank (Düsseldorf): Threatening Messages. Terrorist Communication in Public Discourse, Media, and Film

17.00-17.15 Coffee Break

## EMOTIONS AND SPACES OF ACTION

17.15-19.00

**Panel III: Too Much To Know? Knowledge and Emotions**

Chair: Renate Dürr (Tübingen)

Daniel Menning (Tübingen): Emotions and Crashes. Stock Trading in America around 1900

Susan J. Matt (Ogden): Neurasthenia, Emotional Exhaustion, and the Problem of Too Much Knowledge in America

Joseph Ben Prestel (Berlin): Dangerous Excitement: Debates about Emotions in the Entertainment Districts of Berlin and Cairo, 1880-1910

19.30 Reception in the Stift's Court

29.06.2018

09.00-10.45

**Panel IV: The Power of Knowledge. Emotional and Humorous Practices in the Context of Protest**

Chair: Monique Scheer (Tübingen)

Simon Teune (Berlin): Humor and Indignation in Visual Representations of the German Anti-Nuclear Movement

Cristina Flesher Fominaya (Loughborough): How to Win an Election by Throwing out the Handbook: Art, Humour, and Emotions in the 2015 Madrid and Barcelona Elections

Ernst Henning Hahn (Tübingen): Humor (h) = Epistemic Content (ec) in Affective Politics (ap) of Protest (p):  $h=ec*ap/p$

10.45-11.15 Coffee Break

11.15-13.00

**Panel V: Memory Places and Places of Forgetting**

Chair: Astrid Franke (Tübingen)

Dylan Trigg (Vienna): Deadmails: a Phenomenological Foray

Deborah Toner (Leicester): Forgetting the Past, Locating *lo mexicano*: Pulque, Tequila and Mexico's National Drink

Ferdinand Nyberg (Tübingen): King Alcohol: Warring Spirits in Early America

13.00-14.15 Lunch Break

## EMPIRES AND THE PRECARIOUSNESS OF KNOWLEDGE

14.15-16.00

**Panel VI: Precarious Knowledge in the Carolingian Empire**

Chair: Steffen Patzold (Tübingen)

Carine van Rhijn (Utrecht): Precarious Knowledge in Times of Reform: The Case of Prognostics in the Carolingian Period

Warren Pezé (Paris-Créteil): Knowledge and Violence in the Reign of Charles the Bald (840-877)

Irene van Renswoude (Utrecht): Contested Knowledge. Negotiating Bans and Prohibitions

16.30-17.30 – Tübingen Castle

**University Collections: Topographies of Knowledge and Forgetting – Gabriele Alex/ Monique Scheer (Tübingen)**

19.00 Conference Dinner Restaurant "Ludwig's"

30.06.2018

09.00-10.45

**Panel VII: Memoria and Anti-Memoria in Postcolonial and Postimperial Societies**

Chair: Ewald Frie (Tübingen)

John Darwin (Oxford): Which Empire? Whose Empire? Remembering and Forgetting Britain's Imperial Past

Katharina Schramm (Bayreuth): Of Layered Memories and Partial Truths: Addressing the History of Slavery in Postcolonial Ghana

Sebastian Koch (Tübingen): Biculturalism, Multiculturalism and Indigeneity as a Strategy of Memoria. Canada and Australia Defining Themselves in Times of Threatened Orders

10.45-11.15 Coffee Break

11.15-12.45

**Keynote II – Martin Mulsow (Erfurt): Global Encounters – Precarious Knowledge: Traces of Alchemy in Batavia**

Chair: Andreas Holzem (Tübingen)

12.45-13.30 Lunch Break

13.30-14.30 Mischa Meier (Tübingen): Comment & Discussion