

Research Profile

**What is art?
What does art accomplish?
Why does art move us?**

These are the questions which the Collaborative Research Centre Different Aesthetics pursues on the basis of images, texts, objects and musical testimonies of pre-modern Europe.



The CRC bundles the interdisciplinary collaboration of a broad field of 20 academic subjects, ranging from archaeology to art and musicology, from classical and modern languages to theology and Islamic studies, from history to historical and cultural anthropology.

Our first aim is to reveal the insight that ancient, medieval and early modern cultural history can contribute to our understanding of the aesthetic. On this basis, we moreover aim to consolidate and further develop contemporary debates on the societal relevance of aesthetics by providing a deepened historical perspective.

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CRC 1391
Different Aesthetics

Practices

The project area “Practices” focusses on the heterological dimension of the aesthetic. The phenomena examined in this area are firmly entrenched in historical environments of everyday life as well as more general socio-cultural contexts and activities. The central question is in what way and at which points social function and artistic performance intertwine.

Research Projects

The Aesthetics of Public Office: Representations of the Administrative Elite in the Late Roman Empire (4–6th Century CE)
(Murer / Schmidt-Hofner)

‘Different’ Aesthetics of Ancient Economic Spaces in the Roman North-Western Provinces of the Early and Middle Imperial Period
(Lipps)

Pure Language, Good Form – Purism and the Aesthetics of Social Interaction in Early Modern Courtesy Books
(Dessi Schmid / Robert)

Music in English Bath and Spa Towns in the Late 17th and 18th Centuries (Schipperges)

Abundance, Redundancy, Excess: Procedures of Amplification in Early Modern Epideictics (Dessi Schmid / Till)

The Kunstkammer of the Dukes of Württemberg as a Figure of Aesthetic Reflection: Attributions of Value and Processes of Canonisation (Thiemeyer)

Manifestations

The project area “Manifestations” investigates aesthetic reflection in acts and artefacts in the form of allusions or marginal comments. The corresponding modes of reflection can develop a certain programmatic quality; mostly, however, they remain tied to their specific contexts. Of particular interest here is how ‘clues’ and ‘traces’ of reflection draw on autological as well as heterological factors for justification.

Research Projects

Coinage in Syria-Palestine between Hellenistic-Roman Influence and Jewish Tradition
(Krmnicek)

Semantics of Aesthetics in Middle High German: A Digital Lexicological Information System
(Braun / Gerok-Reiter)

The Aesthetics of Combinatorics: Personifications and Allegories in Medieval Art and Literature
(Linden / Worm)

Kaleidoscopic Narration in the Icelandic Sagas
(Gropper / Merkelbach)

Teaching Nature – Nature’s Teaching. Aesthetic Strategies of Knowledge Transmission in a Transcultural Perspective
(Forster / Stellmann)

Aesthetics of Legal Narrative Communications in the Qur’an and in Pre-Modern Islam
(Zellentin)

Concepts

The project area “Concepts” analyses acts and artefacts which explicitly display their self-reflection, which seek a specific artistic profile in opposition to other concepts or which are marked by conceptual claims of their own. Therefore, this project area is clearly related to central aesthetic problems as well as traditions and norms of the autological dimension.

Research Projects

Between Tradition and Triumph: Christian Poetics of Ekphrasis (Männlein)

Aesthetics – Canon – Criticism: Northern Alpine Art in Archaeological and Art Historical Research
(Lipps / Pawlak)

Precarious Appearance: Aesthetic Discourses in Mystical Texts of the Middle Ages
(Gerok-Reiter / Wendel)

Ceremonies in Print: Intermediality and Representation in Early Modern Netherlandish Culture
(Pawlak / Wolkenhauer)

The aesthetics of co-creativity in early modern English literature
(Bauer / Zirker)

Transformations of Demonic Illusion – Dream, Hallucination, Phantasmagoria
(Goumegou / Robert)

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