



Location

Bildungszentrum 21
Room Lingua Franca
Missionsstrasse 21
4055 Basel

Pre-registration required

Please register no later than September 15, 2015:
bgsh.geschichte.unibas.ch/registration

Organized by

Dr. Annalena Müller & Dr. Roberto Sala (Basel)
in cooperation with Dr. Andrea Westermann (Zurich)

Information

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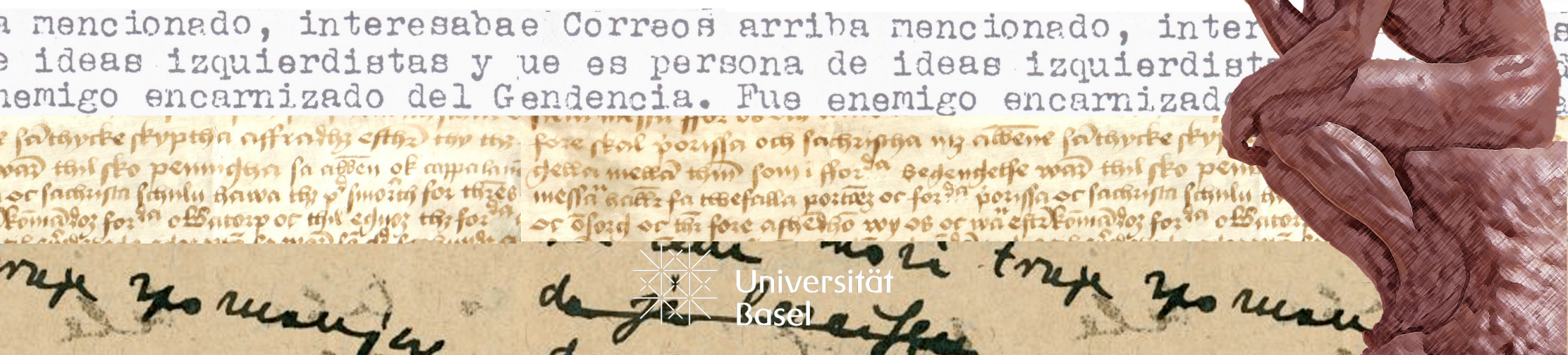
International Conference

Theory and Empiricism

Approaches to History between Description and Abstraction

Basel, October 8-9, 2015

Annual Conference of the
Basel Graduate School of History, University of Basel
in cooperation with the
Graduate Program of History, University of Zurich



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015

10.00 - 10.15 am Welcome

Benjamin Schenk (Basel), Francisca Loetz (Zurich)

10.15 - 10.45 am Introduction

Annalena Müller (Basel), Roberto Sala (Basel)

10.45 am - 3.15 pm Panel I
HISTORY AND THEORY

Jürgen Kocka (Berlin): The Necessity of Theory for Empirical Historical Research. The Example of the History of Capitalism

Michael Schaffner (Basel): Contested Mixtures. Approaches to Materiality in the Early Modern Period

12.15 - 1.45 pm: Lunch, Restaurant If d'or

Carolyn J. Dean (Yale): To Bear Witness? History, Human Rights, and the Neo-Foucauldian Critique

Philip S. Gorski (Yale): Secularization. A Bourdieusian Framework

Discussants: Anna Leyrer (Basel) / Enea Dragomir (Zurich)
Chair: Francisca Loetz (Zurich)

3.15 - 3.45 pm: Coffee Break

3.45 pm - 6.15 pm Panel II
GLOBAL HISTORY IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

Quinn Slobodian (Wellesley): Get your System out of my World: Concept Work in Economic History

Josef Johannes Schmid (Mainz): Why the Seven Years' War did not Last Seven Years - Discrepant Perceptions of Global Early Modern History Illustrated

Anja Suter (Basel): Chemistry between Basel and Bombay - An Attempt towards a Multi-Sited Historiography of Labour

Discussants: Julian Wettengel (Basel) / Marina Lienhard (Zurich)
Chair: Martin Dusinberre (Zurich)

6.15 - 6.45 pm: Coffee Break

6.45 pm - 7.45 pm KEYNOTE

Gabrielle Spiegel (Johns Hopkins)
The Limits of Empiricism: The Utility of Theory in Historical Thought and Writing

8.15 pm: Conference Dinner, Restaurant Safran Zunft

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2015

9.45 am - 12.15 pm Panel III
HISTORIOGRAPHICAL TRADITIONS

Ana del Campo (St. Andrews): Stuck in Time. Writing History in Franco's Spain

Daniel Ursprung (Zurich): How Deeds Become History. The Historiographies of Eastern Europe in Transnational and Historical Context

Daniela Saxer (Zurich): „Sources“ between Micrology and Transparency. How a Core Concept of German-Speaking Historical Scholarship was Shaped

Discussants: Bianca Hoening (Basel) / Tobias Hodel (Zurich)
Chair: Benjamin Schenk (Basel)

12.15 - 1.45 pm: Lunch, Restaurant If d'or

1.45 pm - 4.15 pm Panel IV
GENDER
A THEORETICAL CATEGORY AND ITS PRACTICE

Anna Krylova (Duke): Turning Theory into Historical Practice. The Case of Gender

Claudia Opitz (Basel): Gender in Transit. On the History of Gender History in a Transnational Perspective

Céline Angehrn (Basel): Unfinished Challenges. Women, Gender and the History of Career Counseling in Switzerland

Discussants: Anna de Caprio (Basel) / Eva Seemann (Zurich)
Chair: Caroline Arni (Basel)

4.15 - 4.45 pm: Coffee Break

4.45 - 5.45 pm Concluding Comments
Martin Dusinberre (Zurich)

and Plenary Discussion
Chair: Andrea Westermann (Zurich)

How much theory and how much empiricism are needed for the study of the past? This old question continues to engage historians around the globe – and their answers vary widely. Indeed, approaches to theory and empiricism depend on a number of factors including the period under study and the academic tradition a historian was trained in. As a result, historiographical focuses, methodologies, and the resulting research projects continue to differ between individual countries. This international conference will revisit the methodological question from a comparative perspective. Historians from the US, Switzerland, Spain, and Germany will discuss fundamental issues and methodological challenges that are inherent to the study of history. Two panels will approach these questions on a meta-level, namely: *History and Theory* and *Historiographical Traditions*. The panels *Global History in Theory and Practice* and *Gender – A Theoretical Category and its Practice* will approach methodological questions from thematic perspectives. The conference as a whole seeks to provide a stage for an international and mutually enriching dialogue on the practice(s) of history.

In preparation for the conference, doctoral students are invited to attend workshops to discuss the pre-circulated papers on October 7: bgsh.geschichte.unibas.ch/theoryandempiricism