

A Fresh Look Backwards. Scholarly Forgetting in the History of the Humanities

Initiative: "Originalitätsverdacht?" Neue Optionen für die Geistes- und Kulturwissenschaften

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In the history of the humanities, the 19th century is commonly seen as an age of disciplinarization and institutionalization through which modern disciplines emerged and scholarly canons were established. There is, however, a long-neglected side to this: the processes of scholarly forgetting implied by any process of selection and reorganization. Knowledge that did not pass through the 19th-century bottleneck often vanished into obscurity. This project explores the role of scholarly amnesia for the humanities at a turning point in their recent history. In this, the research team not only works towards an entirely new understanding of what the 19th century meant for the humanities. They also hope to shed light on 18th-century knowledge lost from view when the 19th-century transformed the scholarly landscape. Through a first exploration of untapped sources, they seek both to develop convenient conceptual tools and to map the specific source materials, and set the coordinates for further collaborative initiatives to regain lost scholarly voices from the past.

Projektbeteiligte

Dr. Han Lamers

Humboldt-Universität Berlin
Fakultät für Geisteswissenschaften II
Institut für Klassische Philologie
Berlin

Prof. Dr. Toon Van Hal

Catholic University of Leuven
Department of Linguistics
Center for the Historiography of Linguistics
Leuven
Belgien

