

PRO LOEWE NEWS

The LOEWE Research Initiatives report

GERBROCHENE TRADITIONEN?

JÜDISCHE LITERATUR PHILOSOPHIE UND MUSIK IM NS- DEUTSCHLAND

FURTHER TOPICS, NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE
LOEWE RESEARCH NETWORK IN THIS ISSUE OF PRO LOEWE-NEWS,
AT WWW.PROLOEWE.DE AND ON TWITTER AT @PROLOEWE.

Cover photo: The cover of the leaflet for the "Breaking with tradition?" conference programme on 9 November 2021 and the subsequent lecture series during the 2021/22 winter semester. Design: Atelier Frank, Berlin.

"BREAKING WITH TRADITION? JEWISH LITERATURE, PHILOSOPHY AND MUSIC IN NAZI GERMANY" – A SERIES OF EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE LOEWE "RELIGIOUS POSITIONING" CLUSTER TO COMMEMORATE 9 NOVEMBER

The **"Religious Positioning" LOEWE cluster**, the Martin Buber professorship and the Buber-Rosenzweig Institute for Modern and Contemporary Jewish Intellectual and Cultural History, in cooperation with the Selma Stern Centre for Jewish Studies in Berlin-Brandenburg, the Axel Springer Endowed Chair for German-Jewish Literature and Cultural History, Exile and Migration at the Viadrina European University in Frankfurt/Oder and the Chair for the History of Jewish Music at the Franz Liszt University of Music in Weimar, are organising a series of events entitled "Breaking with tradition? Jewish literature, philosophy and music in Nazi Germany" during the 2021/22 winter semester. It is an interdisciplinary series of events involving literature, music, religious studies and philosophy and focuses on presenting cultural and artistic/aesthetic links with traditions in the cultural life of German Jews in Nazi Germany during the 1930s and early 1940s.

Faced with pressure caused by political censorship, marginalisation and the persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany, the developments in literature, philosophy and music at that time were more strongly dominated by a (critical) reflection of long-established artistic/aesthetic or cultural and religious traditions than at other times and – associated with this – by recognisably (new) rules for intellectual and artistic/aesthetic positions adopted by the artists at that time. The question raised as the key element in the series of events focusing on breaking with tradition became the crucial issue for adopting artistic/aesthetic positions for intellectuals, writers and musicians of Jewish descent during these years – and for perceptible efforts to achieve a collective way of perceiving themselves within and with regard to a racist and antisemitic system, which gradually marginalised them from public life in Germany and persecuted them. The series of events shows the history of Jews and non-Jews in Germany in the light of these developments.

The conference and opening event were attended by people in Frankfurt/Oder on 9 November and were broadcast live online on the YouTube channel of the Selma Stern Centre for Jewish Studies in Berlin-Brandenburg.

The lecture series started on 11 November 2021 and is being held in Berlin every Thursday between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. It is also available online at the Goethe University and the FRANZ LISZT University of Music in Weimar as a teaching unit; the general public can access the material too. Because of the maximum number of persons allowed to attend the event venues, participation in the lecture series is only possible after registration has been confirmed; please send an e-mail to: info@selma-stern-zentrum.de.

The entire lecture series is also being broadcast on ZOOM and will be available on the Selma-Stern Centre's YouTube channel at a later date.

ZiF Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Forschung
Center for Interdisciplinary Research
Universität Bielefeld

1st International Conference on Data Storage in Molecular Media

21 – 23 March 2022

MOSLA **Philipps-Universität Marburg** **JUSTUS-LIEBIG-UNIVERSITÄT GIESSEN** **LOEWE**

Convenors: Georges Hattab | Dominik Heider | Anke Becker (Marburg, GER)
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LOEWE MOSLA AT THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP RELATED TO DATA STORAGE USING MOLECULAR MEDIA

Any important information is stored in digital libraries nowadays, for example, on tapes or in networked storage systems (clouds). However, if long-term storage for information is required, these 'systems are still unreliable.

If, for example, solar storms or other electromagnetic disasters occur, humanity will face a dark digital future. This may sound like science fiction for those who are not scientists; however, that is not the case, but is a very real threat. If, for example, a particularly powerful solar storm "bombarded" planet earth with charged particles, this could not only seriously disrupt electricity networks and satellites, but also bring the Internet to a standstill for a fairly long time. Any digitally stored data, e.g. what is used to produce banknotes, would be lost and that would mean damage on a devastating scale.

In order to find a practicable solution and be armed to face these challenges, the existing storage hierarchy needs to be expanded by using molecular clusters and storage systems. However, managing this task only works if scientists can work together outside their individual faculties – e.g. mathematics, computer science and biology. The current state-of-the-art technology, which deals with molecular clusters and storage systems, is based on a combination of biology and chemistry. Short synthetic DNA has mainly been used as the storage medium in the existing DNA-based approaches and the DNA is founded on various genetic bases (A, C, G, T).

However, inorganic chemistry has also proved helpful to store information in chemical clusters by absorbing and emitting light; this is based on a new kind of geometry that develops through crystal-like structures. Research scientists working in the fields of biology, chemistry, mathematics and computer science as well as visual analytics and related disciplines will meet together for a workshop on 21 – 23 March 2022 to discuss matters and work on this issue. This is another step in pressing ahead with the development of molecular structures and standardising them.

The workshop will be led by Georges Hattab, Dominik Heider and Anke Becker, who are all scientists working within the **MOSLA LOEWE cluster**, which has its main centre at the University of Marburg.

LOEWE IDG EVALUATES THE USE OF FOCUS GROUPS WHEN CONDUCTING RESEARCH INTO SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY AND ARRIVES AT A POSITIVE CONCLUSION

The research scientists involved in the **"Infrastructure – Design – Society" (IDG) LOEWE cluster** founded a focus group at the start of the funding period in 2018 to obtain the best possible insights in their project; the aim of the focus group was to supplement quantitative studies with qualitative methods. To explain matters in greater detail, focus groups are normally used for questionnaires, workshops and discussions to determine different points of view among the participants on a topic that has been set in advance and therefore obtain information, for example, about further developing concepts or testing the effects of measures.

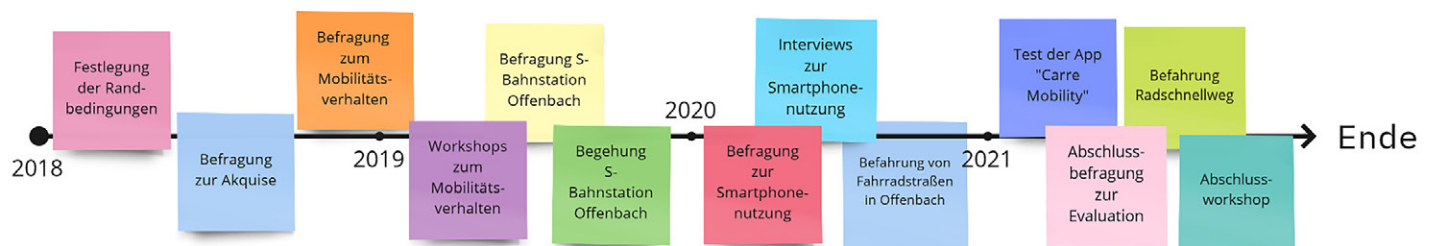
It was therefore important for the IDG as part of its research to gain more information about different mobility styles, for instance. The members of the focus group were questioned on this and were assigned to various mobility styles on the basis of their answers: "environmentally aware", "interested in cycling", "pragmatically in favour of public transport", "multi-optional", "interested in cars" or "relatively immobile". The participants were then able to compare and discuss this designation with their own view of themselves. A further study involved the group in cycling along the Frankfurt/Darmstadt fast cycle path. The focus group tested individual aspects of the route with their bicycles there, e.g. the width and lighting. The members also identified potential black spots and discussed the design of the route in terms of its user-friendliness.

The Research Lab for Urban Transport (ReLUT) research group at Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences handled the process of recruiting 232 focus group members, who were able to register for various activities. The ReLUT also acted as the direct contact partner for any questions throughout the entire project.

LOEWE IDG organised a workshop at the end of its funding period in September 2021 to draw conclusions about the activi-

The focus group assessed fast cycle path features such as its width with stickers.

© Jonas Hamann, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences



ties that had been performed with the participants. The unusually long "operating period" for the focus group – i.e. more than three years – made the evaluation even more exciting. The workshop participants made use of the opportunity of exchanging ideas and providing feedback to the project members about the activities that had been completed. However, the occasion was also used to gather requests for future events, as the focus group will continue at ReLUT beyond the project.

The contributions and opinions of the focus group have made an important contribution to the qualitative mobility research within the context of LOEWE IDG. This includes the results of the questionnaires, which have been used in dissertations, and the discussion contributions, which have been picked up by the regional association, for example, with regard to using the fast cycle path.



THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF LOEWE FLAME

The members of the **FLAME LOEWE cluster** (at the Technical University of Darmstadt) met on 11 – 12 November 2021 for their third annual meeting since the start of funding in 2019. The event took place in hybrid form because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, so that members, who were unable to attend the event in person, also had the opportunity of actively participating in the meeting online. The conference was held at the NH Hotel in Weinheim an der Bergstrasse for all those who came in person in strict compliance with the Covid-19 regulations and the protective hygiene concept developed by the Technical University of Darmstadt. After almost two years of social distancing, it was a particularly pleasant experience for those attending to engage in sharing ideas at one location and do so beyond individual faculties. It was an important opportunity for the academic members of the individual projects to present and discuss the results of their research work so far on the subject of anti-ferroelectric materials and extend their networks.

Correlations between the electronic structure of a material and its properties, which have not been used in the past, are being employed within the context of the **FLAME (Fermi Level Engineering of Anti-Ferroelectric Materials for Energy Storage Units and Insulators) LOEWE cluster** to manufacture materials that contain no poisonous lead. These kinds of anti-ferroelectric materials can be used in condensers, for example, but also as insulators in high-voltage lines or for new cooling systems.

"ARCHITECTURES OF ORDER" – A SERIES OF LECTURES BY THE "ARCHITECTURES OF ORDER" LOEWE CLUSTER. PRACTICES AND DISCOURSES BETWEEN DESIGN AND KNOWLEDGE"

Our everyday lives are affected by the architectural configuration of the spaces that surround us to a very considerable degree. Architects, who grapple with the structural design of government and public authority buildings, academic institutes, urban spaces or other types of structures, have therefore not only had to gear their work to aesthetic requirements and needs, but equally to functional issues, which are placed on buildings and architectural styles, right from the start. This gives rise to spaces with architectural features, which are supposed to reflect and constitute political/social orders and ideals, among other things, configure materialised knowledge systems or be designed with a view to specific ways of exercising and consolidating power.

The lecture series entitled "Architectures of Order", which has been conceived and is being held during the 2021/22 academic year, deals with this topic area. The first part of the lecture series already took place in the form of four online evening lectures during the 2021 summer semester. The major focus then was on dealing with areas of power and the issue of dovetailing architectural and spatial ideas with political and social orders that are detectable in these buildings.

The second part of the lecture series entitled "Architectures of Order. The Storehouse of Knowledge" started on 18 November

2021. The statement that architecture spatially configures knowledge and therefore has a major part in modulating, imposing, canonising and institutionalising epistemic models formed the starting point for dealing with this topic. Archives, libraries, museums and universities can be viewed as materialised knowledge systems: the collective, selected, ordered, developed and communicated knowledge is spatially captured. Attempts will also be made during the four lecture evenings to determine to what degree the specific architectural framework affects organisational and knowledge structures. The Belgian civil engineer and architectural historian, Wouter van Acker, launched the series. He dedicated his lecture to architectural designs and spatial concepts of order for the visionary concept of the "Mundaneum" (cf. the poster), which was developed by Paul Otlet (1868-1944); his idea involved collecting the entire knowledge in the world bibliographically in card indexes. In contrast, using the title "Reading Place, the Belgian architect, Philippe Viérin, used specific projects to illustrate how it is possible to perceive, respect and continue to develop the knowledge stored in historical buildings in a sensitive manner when modifying and extending structures. In two other art historical lectures, Kirsten Wagner will firstly examine the question of the structured world and knowledge order in the architectural styles at world exhibitions during the 19th century and Eva Dolezel will dedicate her lecture to the knowledge constellations found in art and natural history chambers in museums during the early modern period.

The dates and topics for the lectures in the "Architectures of Order: Storehouse of Knowledge" online lectures, which started on 18 November 2021, and the lectures recorded in the first part of the series can be found on the LOEWE cluster's website: architecturesoforder.org.

"Architectures of Order" is an interdisciplinary research project at the Goethe University in Frankfurt and the Technical University of Darmstadt and is being funded for four years (2020-2023); the Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory and the German Architecture Museum are acting as non-university partners. You can find more information here: ProLOEWE.de.

LEGAL NOTICE

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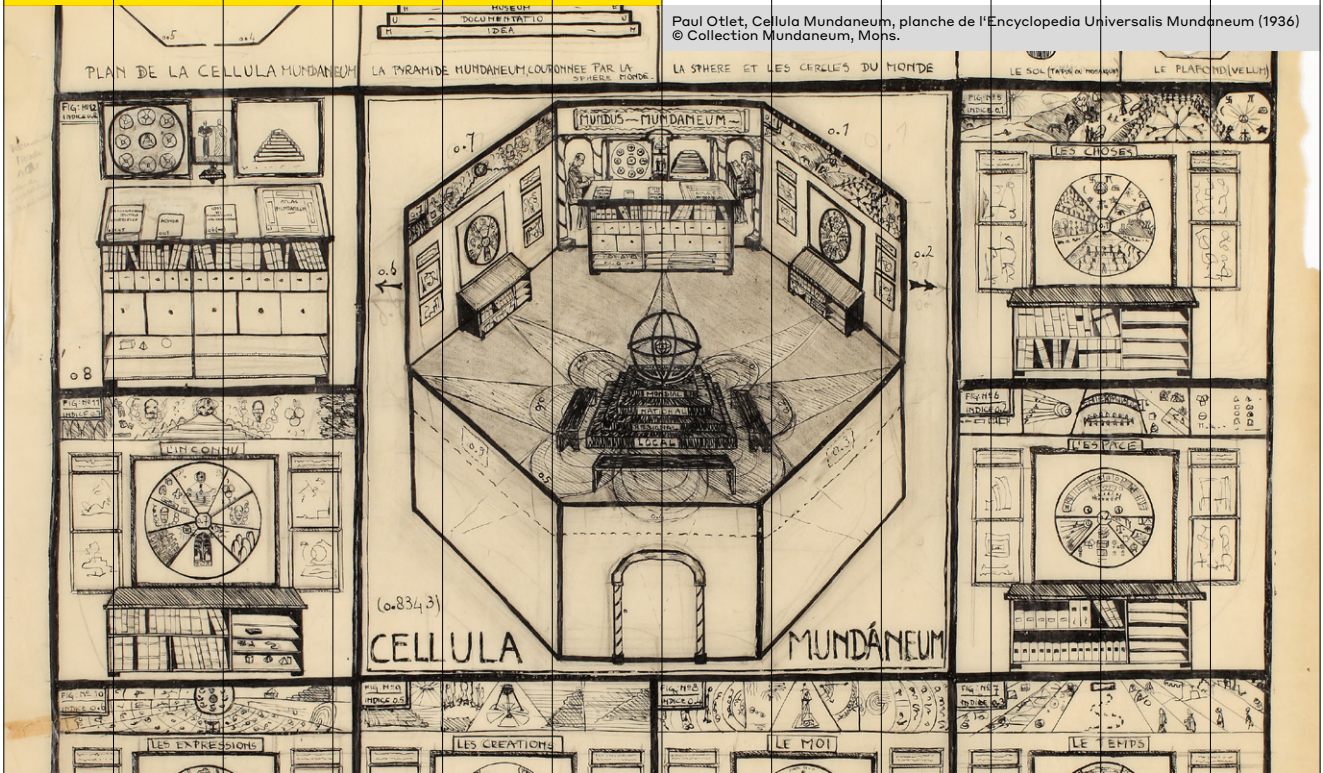
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Sciences / Rolf K. Wegst

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Architectures of Order

Practices and Discourses
between Design and Knowledge



Paul Otlet, Cellula Mundaneum, planche de l'Encyclopedia Universalis Mundaneum (1936)
© Collection Mundaneum, Mons.

GEBAUTE ORDNUNG: Speicher des Wissens

18.11.2021
WOUTER VAN ACKER
»Reformatting the
Memory Palace:
When Everything Exists
to End in a Document«

01.12.2021
PHILIPPE VIÉRIN
»Reading Place«
▷ Dieser Vortrag ist Teil der
Mittwochabend-Vorträge des
Fachbereichs Architektur der
TU Darmstadt und findet sowohl
virtuell als auch in Präsenz statt.

13.01.2022
KIRSTEN WAGNER
»Gebaute Welt- und
Wissensordnung.
Architekturen der Welt-
ausstellungen im 19. Jahr-
hundert«

27.01.2022
EVA DOLEZEL
»Objektarchitekturen,
Wissenskonstellationen.
Der museale Raum der
Kunst- und Naturalien-
kammern in Theorie und
Praxis«

Ringvorlesung Teil II
Wintersemester 2021/22

online (Zoom)
Beginn jeweils 18:00 s.t.

Zur Anmeldung:



www.architecturesoforder.org

LOEWE-Schwerpunkt





Professor Dr Stephan Becker, Director of the Institute of Virology at the Philipps University in Marburg and the spokesperson for the DRUID LOEWE Centre. Photo: Rolf K. Wegst

Professor Dr Stephan Becker

A race against the viruses

Professor Becker, you have been the spokesperson for the DRUID LOEWE Centre since 2020, but were part of the original team that set it up. How did the idea arise of establishing a centre to focus on tropical diseases here in Hesse of all places? *There are a considerable number of research groups in Hesse that focus on neglected tropical pathogens, particularly parasites. Prof. Katja Becker, the current President of the DFG (the German Research Foundation), launched the initiative in 2013-2014 to bring together these groups to develop a common research programme. A major outbreak of the ebola virus took place in West Africa at about the same time and virologists from the Philipps University in Marburg were involved in containing it. The outbreak caused considerable concern in the region, but also around the globe and attracted attention to tropical infectious diseases on the part of the general public and politicians. The establishment of DRUID then involved amalgamating the academic expertise that was available in Hesse to powerfully combat neglected tropical diseases.*

The major focus of your research work is on pure research into viruses and you are head of the "Emerging infections" department at the DZIF (the German Centre for Infection Research), which was founded in 2011. Can you tell us something about your work? *My research work mainly focuses on viruses that unexpectedly cause outbreaks. They are either new or are viruses that are familiar to people, cause sporadic outbreaks and then disappear again, only to reappear just as unexpectedly. These viruses are called "emerging viruses". There are his-*

torical reasons for my interest in these pathogens too: the outbreak of a fatal infectious disease, the origin of which was initially not known, occurred here in Marburg in 1967; it was, however, clearly transferred from African green long-tailed monkeys to human beings. Monkeys were required to make the vaccine at that time. Virologists from Marburg, together with colleagues from all over Germany, finally identified the pathogen, which was then named the 'Marburg virus' after the place where it was discovered. The Marburg Institute of Virology has developed into a centre of excellence for work on these kinds of tropical viruses since that time. Other prominent examples of these kinds of viruses are the ebola virus, but naturally the SARS Covid-19 virus too, which has triggered the coronavirus pandemic. The common factor in all these viruses is that they are transferred from animals to human beings and trigger serious infections, while they are often not dangerous to the host animals. We are developing vaccines and medicines in the DZIF's "Emerging infections" department, but also new diagnostic methods to combat emerging viruses. We were involved, for example, in developing a vaccine against the ebola virus and are developing vaccines against the MERS coronavirus, which is transferred from camels to human beings and occurs in Saudi Arabia.

The Hesse research support programme known as LOEWE has existed since 2008; what do you think has been achieved through this unique format for pure research in Germany, which would not have been possible otherwise? *The abbreviation "LOEWE" includes the term "excellence" and that is both the description and challenge for the research world in the federal state of Hesse. I believe that the many projects being supported by LOEWE are firstly a testimony to the huge interest shown by research scientists in Hesse to submit to an intensive peer review process in order to allow their research ideas to become reality. It is also an outstanding opportunity for scientists in Hesse to network with each other – there are a huge number of LOEWE clusters, in which various universities in Hesse are involved. Finally, LOEWE supports connectivity with the national, European and international academic world. At the same time, the LOEWE programme supports steps that must take place to transfer the results of pure research into the real applied world so that it is possible to improve people's lives. To stay in my field, this may involve vaccines against infectious diseases or better diagnostic methods or new ways of developing medicines more quickly. The DRUID LOEWE Centre involves a large number of research scientists, for example, who can only fully develop their ideas in close cooperation with other DRUID partners and their technological and academic expertise.* **The whole interview is available here: proloewe.de.**

* LOEWE stands for "Landes-Offensive zur Entwicklung Wissenschaftlich-ökonomischer Exzellenz" (State Offensive to Develop Academic/Economic Excellence).