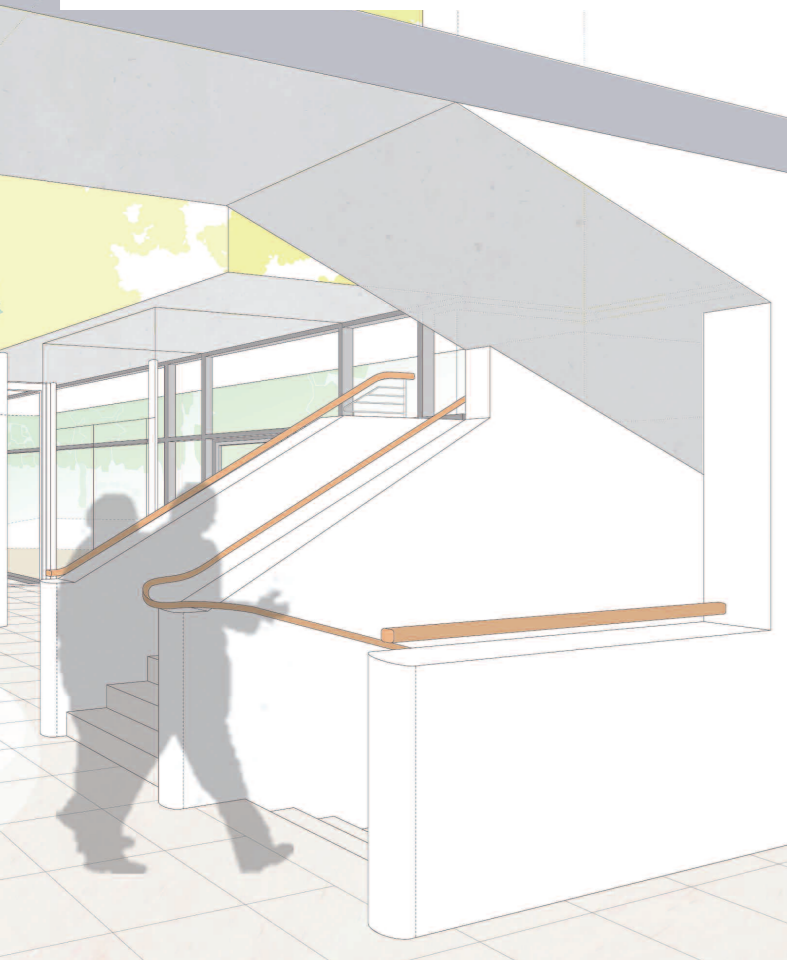


„Based partly on the institutes for advanced study to be found in the English-speaking countries, this model has the aim of establishing high-visibility centres for top-level research in the humanities at our universities which not only take account of the close intrinsic links between the disciplines concerned and the universities but also combine scope for free development with continuity and institutional reliability.“

(Recommendations of the Wissenschaftsrat [German Science and Humanities Council] on the development and promotion of the humanities in Germany, 27 January 2006, page 6)



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Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main



A laboratory for innovative research in society

An initiative of Goethe University Frankfurt
am Main and the Werner Reimers Foundation,
Bad Homburg v. d. Höhe



The wide-ranging processes of change characterizing our social reality in the age of globalization present challenges to mankind that cannot be met without indications and reflections pointing the way forward from scholars working in the relevant disciplines. How can different value systems cooperate with each other or coexist peacefully? What is the impact of global economic and other links on world politics and international relations? What will be the complexion of tomorrow's just society – or tomorrow's just world? What ethical and political tasks confront us at a time of previously unimaginable technical possibilities, which demand that we reflect anew on the very "nature" of humanity?

Such questions call not only for new approaches within the humanities and social sciences, but also for new forms of interdisciplinary collaboration. These in turn require specific centres for cooperation and reflection that allow the boundaries of traditional thinking in terms of individual disciplines to be crossed.

By the creation of the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities, Frankfurt's Goethe University and the Werner Reimers Foundation are establishing a platform of this kind for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary dialogue and academic exchanges directed towards the solution of particular problems. The Werner Reimers Foundation's conference centre in Bad Homburg v. d. Höhe, now boasting an additional new building, offers a thoroughly contemporary range of facilities for sustainable scientific work to selected scholars from every country in the world in cooperation with scholars from Goethe University. Outstanding research teams can work and live together in a secluded location which nevertheless has convenient transport links, in a concentrated and interdisciplinary environment.

Scope for free development

The birth of new knowledge cannot be planned. It develops out of the tension between social interests on the one hand and "blue-sky", or non-applied, research on the other. For this reason, truly innovative research must be free – free of everyday constraints and free of the constraints of disciplinary rituals. New problems and topics for investigation can appear on the horizon only when the beaten track is abandoned. The Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities offers the freedom needed for this purpose, and sees its particular mission as the forging of links between the humani-



ties and the social sciences, while at the same time opening up these disciplines to insights from the natural sciences and the arts. It establishes a forum for discourse between academe and society and focuses squarely on the challenges of the future.

Location

The Foundation established in 1963 by the Bad Homburg entrepreneur Werner Reimers for promotion of the "sciences of mankind" has conference rooms and offices of its own, as well as apartments, set in extensive parkland on the margins of Bad Homburg's Spa Gardens. This is just the right environment for researchers to live and work together in a stimulating atmosphere. Leading scholars from Germany and all over the world gathered at the Reimers Foundation for symposia and international conferences from 1972 until 2001. The Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities continues this tradition.

Network

The Institute sees itself as a part of an international research network and seeks, in addition, to provide a meeting point for all the region's research capabilities in the scientific, cultural and artistic fields. The themes and issues on which it concentrates are linked to the main topics of research in the humanities and the social sciences at Goethe University.

Fellows

A number of different research teams including Senior Fellows and postdoctoral workers collaborate at the Institute. About half of their members are external, most of this group being from abroad, while the other half come from Goethe University and other university and non-university research institutions in the region. The Fellows are exempted from

teaching duties for the duration of their stay at the Institute. The teams establish working structures for themselves that are supplemented by overarching Institute activities not confined to a single project. Students from Goethe University and the regional community are also involved through outreach provision in the form of seminars, colloquia and lectures; they can familiarize themselves with aspects of the individual projects and become involved in the processes of reflection through public lectures and discussion sessions.

Dialogue

Meetings, lectures and working groups at the Institute where experts from the various disciplines can come together with representatives of the public form the basis of ongoing scientific exchanges and social dialogue. Project outcomes are presented at a public congress. The intention is for artistic and other cultural activities to be involved and included in the dialogue with the academic disciplines.

Administrative bodies

The Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities is administered by its Executive. The following are ex officio members:

- The President of Goethe University, Prof. Dr. Rudolf Steinberg
- The Executive Director of the Werner Reimers Foundation, Wolfgang R. Assmann, RA [lawyer]
- The District Chief Executive (Landrat) of the Hochtaunus District Authority, Ulrich Krebs
- The Mayor of the City of Bad Homburg v. d. Höhe, Dr. Ursula Jungherr

The Scientific Directorate draws up the Institute's research programme. The Scientific Directorate comprises the following members of Goethe University Frankfurt am Main:

- Prof. Dr. Spiros Simitis (Director) (Law)
- Prof. Dr. Rainer Forst (Political Science and Philosophy)
- Prof. Dr. Klaus Günther (Law)
- Prof. Dr. Hille Haker (Moral Theology and Social Ethics)

Members of the Scientific Advisory Committee who have so far signified their willingness to take part in the work of the Institute:

- Prof. Dr. Jean-Christoph Ammann (Art and History of Art), former Director of the Museum of Modern Art, Frankfurt am Main
- Prof. Dr. Johannes Fried (History), Goethe University Frankfurt am Main
- Prof. Dr. Axel Honneth (Philosophy) Director, Institute of Social Research, Frankfurt am Main
- Prof. Dr. Wolf Lepenies (Sociology), Permanent Fellow and former Rector of the Berlin Wissenschaftskolleg [Institute for Advanced Study]
- Prof. Dr. Wolf Singer (Brain Research), Director of the Max Planck Institute of Brain Research and of the Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Studies
- Prof. Dr. Michael Stolleis (Law), Director of the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History
- Prof. Dr. Gisela Trommsdorff (Psychology), University of Konstanz

The new building

The following infrastructure facilities are available to the Fellows to ensure that their time at the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities is spent productively:

- Individual work rooms
- A reference library and library services
- Common rooms (conference rooms, meeting rooms, a dining room and lounges)
- Conference rooms for international conferences and other events attended by up to 50 participants

External Fellows are accommodated in apartments in the guesthouse on the Reimers Foundation site. Works of reference and journals are available in the reference library. A library service obtains literature for the Fellows. Meals are taken in common in the dining room. A compulsory but informal gathering is a regular part of the programme. The Administration seeks to provide the Fellows with the best possible working conditions in a relaxed atmosphere conducive to creativity and communication.