

Bremerhaven, November 15, 2023

Kalliope Prize 2023: Experiencing Urban History as Migration History

The German Emigration Center and the German Emigration Center Foundation award the highly endowed prize for migration research to the human geographers at Chemnitz University of Technology

In 2023, the "Kalliope Prize for Practical Migration Research", worth 20,000 euros, will be awarded to a research method that examines local history as migration history with a participatory approach on site. With this award, the German Emigration Center Foundation is for the fourth time supporting researchers who want to communicate migration (history) in a way that is both practically relevant and sustainable. The prize money will be put towards a cooperation project in which the winning team from Chemnitz University of Technology and the German Emigration Center will develop a concept that aims to enable cities to offer city tours on migration history. This concept will be presented to the public in 2025.

Out of the applicants from universities in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the Netherlands, a team application focusing on the relationship between space, people and society stood out: Prof. Dr. Birgit Glorius, Dr. Friederike Enßle-Reinhardt, Stephan Schurig and Hanne Schneider lecture and conduct research in the Department of Human Geography with a focus on European migration research at Chemnitz University of Technology. The prize is a source of motivation for the team: "We are tremendously pleased about this award and view it as recognition of our long-standing efforts to carry out practically oriented migration research that engages with the various local stakeholders on an equal footing. It is very important to us to broaden the often limited perspectives surrounding migration and participation and to develop solutions for the challenges faced by the migration society. Which is why we see this award not only as recognition, but also as an incentive to continue working in this direction."

In the context of this year's Kalliope Prize, applicants were asked to explore the question "Providing orientation, remaining critical - why and how can we engage with migration history?" in an essay and develop a concept for a cooperation project.

The winning research approach explores localities as social spaces that are significantly shaped by migration in the form of an influx. By involving local citizens, a new self-perception in connection with migration is made possible. As the winning submission reads, global migration history is "woven into the memory tapestry of a local society", to quote the essay. In line with the concept of citizen science, citizens are involved in the research as equals, such as in the development of city tours around Dessau-Roßlau in Saxony-Anhalt.

The Kalliope Prize will be presented at a ceremony at the German Emigration Center on December 9, 2023. The prize money of 20,000 euros is donated by the Ditzen-Blanke publishing family.

As such, the Kalliope Prize is intended not only to enrich current migration research from a theoretical perspective, but also to provide an experimental framework for practical experience in engaging with the socially controversial topic of migration in museums and academia.



Reasoning and the Jury

The jury, made up of three external members from universities and cultural institutions as well as two members of the German Emigration Center Foundation, positively emphasized, among other things, that “migration is understood as a social and political phenomenon that has a significant structuring effect” on both the micro and macro level of a city's history. The jury also lauded “the exemplary incorporation of confronting racism through this form of storytelling” and the participatory approach.

This year's jury members:

- **PD Dr. habil. Maria Alexopoulou**
Center for Research on Anti-Semitism, Technical University of Berlin
- **Prof. Dr. Yasemin Karakaşoğlu**
Head of the Department of Education in the Migration Society, University of Bremen
- **Prof. Dr. Hannah von Grönheim**
Professor of Social Work with a Focus on Migration and Diversity, Bremerhaven University of Applied Sciences
- **Former State Councillor Jörg Schulz**
Chairman of the Board of the German Emigration Center Foundation, Bremerhaven
- **Dr. Simone Blaschka**
Director of the German Emigration Center

Previous award winners

The award winners of previous years are:

- **2019: Prof. Dr. Peter Frankopan**
Professor of Global History at the University of Oxford and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation as well as Director of the Oxford Center for Byzantine Research
- **2017: Prof. Dr. Christoph A. Rass**
Professor at the Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies at the University of Osnabrück
- **2015: Prof. Dr. Markus Tiedemann**
Professor at the Institute of Comparative Ethics at the Free University of Berlin

Further information

Further information, especially on the award ceremony in December, can be found on the website of the German Emigration Center.

Journalists can find more material, including video and audio material, the detailed jury statement and individual portraits of the jury members, at

https://dah-bremerhaven.de/press/kalliope_preis_2023_tu_chemnitz

or from the museum's press office at presse@dah-bremerhaven.de on request.

Members of the press are already cordially invited to register for the *upcoming press event*, which will take place shortly before the award ceremony.

The German Emigration Center

The German Emigration Center (DAH) opened on August 8, 2005 and casts light on over 300 years of emigration and immigration. Since 2012, visitors have been able to learn about the history of emigration from Europe as well as immigration to Germany. The museum underwent renovation and expansion in 2021 with a special focus on questions and debates surrounding the historical development of migration societies, such as the Federal Republic of Germany and the USA. The museum takes both a comparative and biographical approach and conducts research in the field of biographical and mental history in particular.

The museum's work in imparting information through its permanent and special exhibitions as well as its educational programs for young people and adults are deliberately designed to be inclusive and to promote empathy and the ability to speak on social and political issues.

The German Emigration Center Foundation

The German Emigration Center Foundation is a foundation under civil law based in Bremerhaven. The Foundation was established in 2006 by the Initiativkreis Erlebniswelt Auswanderung e.V., representatives of Bremerhaven's business community, the operating company of the German Emigration Center and the City of Bremerhaven in order to support the German Emigration Center in major research and exhibition projects and to secure its international standing. The Foundation's activities include support for special exhibitions and publications, the establishment of the archive library, which is currently housed in the former Maritime Board of Bremerhaven, and the "Kalliope Prize for Practical Migration Research".

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The 2023 jury (from left to right): Former State Councillor Jörg Schulz, PD Dr. habil. Maria Alexopoulou, Dr. Simone Blaschka, Prof. Dr. Yasemin Karakaşoğlu, Prof. Dr. Hannah von Grönheim.

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