

# SCHOOL OF HISTORY

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In 2008, the School of History was founded within FRIAS to serve as an international research college focusing on comparative European history from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. With this thematic focus in mind, the School of History has increasingly opened its doors over the past few years to history's neighbouring disciplines (sociology, political science, theology, art history, legal history, and archaeology), expanding not only the boundaries of FRIAS's methodology, but also expertise over several eras. Establishing a thematic focus for research that extended beyond the discipline's boundaries was vital in promoting intellectually stimulating discussions amongst the fellows during their time in Freiburg.

This led to the emergence of thematic core topics in the School of History's research focus, including Eastern European history, the comparative history of European empires, the discussion on convergence and divergence in 20<sup>th</sup> century European history, as well as the international history of human rights. These topics impacted several conferences and book publications, receiving great

international attention, which the effects of could be felt long after a fellowship had ended. Numerous fellowships and other events allowed non-European history and early modern history to become firmly established well beyond the scope of the school's research focus. In addition, critical debate about both the potential and limits of comparison, transfer, and integration stimulated further discussion, both the conference "Global Dialogues on Global History" (2010) and the "Breaking up Time" (2011) conference being good examples of this. The format of one-day, thematically focussed workshops and roundtable discussions proved to be a particularly productive method of integrating methodical perspectives of neighbouring disciplines, especially clear at "The Writing of World History and Macro-Sociology" (2012) and "Thinking Violence" (2012) conferences. Cooperation with the neighbouring School of Language & Literature allowed the schools to transcend disciplines, and discover a platform in this small event format, for example the roundtable discussion "Wieviel Kulturosoziologie brauchen

die Geisteswissenschaften?" (2010), as well as in the colloquium sessions, which were often attended by fellows of both schools.

Each year the School of History fellowships have been allocated exclusively on the basis of an external evaluation procedure commissioned by an advisory board. In the five years of its existence, the School of History has seen a total of 99 academics undertake a fellowship ranging from 1-12 months to complete, or nearly complete, a specific research project. The average percentage of female fellows for the overall period stood at 30%, showing, however, a significant increase in the most recent group of fellows. Junior Fellows comprised roughly one-third of this most recent group of fellows. At 20-25 fellows, the size of the school and the annual rotation of fellow groups have proven quite successful. Against the backdrop of a continuously increasing number of applications, roughly 14% of applicants have been awarded fellowships. The numerous requests for Junior and Senior Fellows from the School of History to fill both internal and foreign professorships, as well as tenured academic positions, reflects the extremely competitive fellow selection process, which guarantees that only the highest calibre of academics are invited to complete a research stay in Freiburg. Academics from the University of Freiburg (Internal Fellows) comprise more than one-fifth of the fellows who were invited to the School of History. The School of History has shown to be a particularly deal location for Freiburg's Junior Fellows to work on or complete a postdoctoral

research project. Together with both of the Directors of the School of History, who were appointed at FRIAS for a period of six years, the Internal Fellows maintained a close collaboration with the Humanities Faculty, which established the School of History as a particularly strategic link between general university life and the school itself. In addition, external fellows have contributed significantly to the School of History's role as an international research college further promoting the development of the historical humanities at the University of Freiburg. To a large extent, this was achieved through the integration of teaching, the supervision of doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers, and by providing expert opinions.

Research results from the School of History have been published in nearly 400 publications, including 21 monographs and 74 original contributions in specialist magazines with a peer review process. Established in 2008, the book series (White Series; Red Series) currently comprise a total of eight volumes, with two further volumes in preparation. Last but not least, the periodicals in the Journal of Modern European History, which was established at the School of History in 2008, have helped to internationalise the research process for 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century comparative European history.

