

## Call for Papers

International Conference  
**Biographical Research in Germany and East Central Europe:  
New Methods - Topics - Challenges**

Date: 12 to 14 June 2024; Venue: Halle (Saale)  
Languages: German/English - mixed, without simultaneous translation

Pierre Bourdieu's remarks on the biographical illusion notwithstanding, the biography enjoys great popularity as a genre. The fact that every biography is only able to depict an apparent linearity of the course of life does not seem to detract from the interest in the genre, as the diverse formats - political, historical and popular biography, but also collective biography and autobiography - show. Or is it precisely the biographical illusion that fascinates not only the audience, but also the authors themselves?

The conference in Halle aims to reflect on biographical research within new methodological contexts, topics and challenges on the basis of heterogeneous disciplinary projects. The regional focus is on Germany and East-Central Europe. During the conference, we would like to address the following aspects in particular:

- Which new methodological approaches to biographies currently promise innovative insights into the field of research? How do regional/national academic cultures and global trends and transfers within biographical research relate to each other?
- How does the narrative and deconstructive approach change biography as a genre or the text as such? What knowledge gain does the new trend of so-called 'focussed biographies', which refers to selected aspects of the protagonist's life bring with it? What does this mean for the context of the biography? Are the social classes and minorities that have received little or no attention to date becoming the focus of biographical research?
- How do digitalisation processes affect the research and creation of (auto)biographies? What consequences do the new digital (biographical podcasts) and artistic formats (images, films, posters, video installations, performances) have for biographical research and its public perception?

We understand gender as a ubiquitous category that is taken into account in all areas - however, we are interested in discussing comparisons and/or deficits in the field of women's, couples' and children's biographies in Germany and East-Central Europe.

We cordially invite applications from both young and experienced researchers who are either already writing a (collective) biography in a (popular) scientific context or who are involved in biographical research from a theoretical perspective.

Please send your topic proposal and a short CV (max. 2000 characters) by 15 January 2024 to [iwona.dadej@geschichte.uni-halle.de](mailto:iwona.dadej@geschichte.uni-halle.de)

Organiser: Aleksander Brückner Centre for Polish Studies and Institute for History at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg

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