



NeuroHistory

How Can Neuroscience Help Us Understand the Past?

Disciplines can make major advances when they synthesize their ideas and methods with those of other disciplines. This workshop focuses on the ways in which neuroscience might help us understand history (and, ideally, vice versa).

Conveners: Edmund P. Russell (Rachel Carson Center / University of Virginia)
Angelika Möller (Rachel Carson Center)

Sponsors: Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society,
Munich Center for Neuroscience

Venue: Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society
Leopoldstr.11a
80802 Munich

Monday, June 6

10:00 - 10:15	Opening Remarks
10:15 - 11:15	Session 1: Big Pictures
Discussion leader:	Frank Zelko (University of Vermont, USA) Daniel Smail (Harvard University, USA) "Psychotropy and the Patterns of Power in Human History" Steve Fuller (University of Warwick, UK) "Putting the Brain at the Heart of General Education in the 21st Century: A Proposal"
11:15 - 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 - 13:00	Session 2: Interdisciplinarity
Discussion leader:	Chris Smith (Aston University, UK) Peter Becker (University of Vienna, Austria) "History and the Neurocentric Age" Olivia Smith (University of Oxford, UK) "Cognitive Approaches to Literature in History: Literature as Cognitive Artefact" David Matuskey (Yale University, USA) "Erythroxyllum Coca and Its Discontents: How the Effects of Cocaine Shaped Civilization"
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 - 16:00	Session 3: Models and Metaphors
Discussion leader:	Peter Becker (University of Vienna, Austria) Benedikt Berninger (LMU Munich, Germany) "History: Not a Story of Events, but of Inherent Instability?" Kirsten Brukamp (RWTH Aachen, Germany) "Nerohistory: Brains (R)Evolve with Time" Chris Smith (Aston University, UK) "Neuropathologies, Sensory Systems, Metaphors and Models: A Discussion Paper"
16:00 - 16:15	Coffee break
16:15 - 18:15	Session 4: Bodies, Brains, and Minds
Discussion leader:	Daniel Smail (Harvard University, USA) Alejandro Gómez (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris III, France) "From Descartes' "Error" to the "Horrors" of Saint-Domingue: Towards a History of Perceptions?" Evgeny Gutyrchik (LMU Munich, Germany) "Realistic and Surrealistic Art in the Brain" Jörg Wettlaufer (CAU Kiel, Germany) "Neurohistory, Human Culture, and the Body" Frank Zelko (University of Vermont, USA) "A Mind Divided Against Itself: Thinking Holistically with a Split Brain"
19:00 -	Dinner

Tuesday, June 7

10:00 - 10:30

Session 5: From Medicine to History

Karin Meissner (LMU Munich, Germany)
and Carlos Collado Seidel (LMU Munich, Germany)
“The Placebo Effect and History”

10:30 - 11:00

Remarks by Edmund Russell (RCC / University of Virginia, USA)

11:00 - 12:30

Discussion

12:30 -

Lunch / End of Workshop



Transport:

By subway (U-Bahn):

- **U3/U6**, disembark at Giselastraße and follow signs to the exit Georgenstraße. On exiting the subway station, you will be on Leopoldstraße. The RCC is located just a few meters away.

By bus: Line 54 or 154

- **Bus 54**, get off at Giselastraße. You will now be next to Leopoldstraße. Facing Leopoldstraße, turn left and follow the street approximately 250 meters to number 11a.
- **Bus 154**, get off at Georgenstraße. You will now be facing number 11a.



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