



Expanded Program Description

The planned cooperation between the University of Konstanz and the *House of the Cultures of the World* (Haus der Kulturen der Welt, HKW) in Berlin is based on our common conviction that the cultural upheavals of the present demand new theoretical categories of description and aesthetic means of representation. In light of such issues, we wish to explore the extent to which classic academic and artistic research as well as museum exhibitions, events, and collection practices are able to stimulate and complement each other.

Two outstanding features of present societies are increased mobility and mass mediality. We inquire how the resulting dynamic is reflected in those collective self-narratives in circulation. From its beginnings, one research interest of the Konstanz Center of Excellence “Cultural Foundations of Social Integration” has been the narrative modeling of social structures in both their integrative and disintegrative tendencies. Going forward, the Center will focus on the aspect of mobility. How have narratives of traveling and being settled been altered in a world characterized by migration? How are distance and proximity currently being reconfigured? Consequently, in what ways have historically dominant narratives (such as the Odyssey, the Exodus, the “Barbarian Invasions” in Late Antiquity) been reactivated and used as points of reference? The *House of the Cultures of the World* is pursuing related interests under the programmatic title of “The Matrix of All Possible Narratives.” This program involves an encyclopedic amalgamating of narrative models in accordance with nineteenth-century ethnographical and mythographic research, as well as an ensuing generative grammar of narration under present-day conditions. It is an inquiry into the resources which today’s ‘wild’ narratives can access in order to connect with their nomadological past. To be discussed in this context is the extent to which self-articulations of today’s societies are also based in comparatively archaic narratives and are thereby confronted with the problems that result from such a discrepancy.

This job posting is intended to form an initial bridgehead between the two institutions and their respective locations. It is directed at applicants who would like to work on an independent project within this extensive thematic framework. In addition to meeting the prerequisites of the subject, creativity in managing the different institutional logics is desirable. Since the position requires a regular presence both in Berlin and Konstanz, it will be furnished with its own travel budget. For any and all questions, please contact us at exc16apply@uni-konstanz.de.