A World of Comparisons. Dynamics, Contexts, Perspectives

February 3 -4, 2011

Organizers:
Franz-Josef Arlinghaus, Ulrike Davy, Bettina Heintz, Willibald Steinmetz

Program

Wednesday, 2 February
Arrival, possibility of a common meal at the restaurant "Puccini's" at 20.00

Thursday, 3 February
9:30 Ulrike Davy, Bielefeld: Welcome address
Willibald Steinmetz, Bielefeld: Introduction

Section I:
Between status and ranking:
Comparing comparisons of medieval and modern universities
Moderator: Veronika Tacke, Bielefeld

10:00 Frank Rexroth, Göttingen:
The notion of conceptual differences between academic disciplines
(12th - 14th centuries)

10:30 Linda Wedlin, Uppsala:
Ranking of modern universities: How global comparisons matter

11:00 Coffee

11:30 Statement: Franz-J. Arlinghaus, Bielefeld

11:45 Discussion

12:45 Lunch

Section II:
Comparing religions and cultures in premodern and modern times
Moderator: Peter Schuster, Bielefeld

14:15 Thomas Lentes, Münster:
Comparing religions in the Middle Ages

14:45 Stefan Brakensiek, Duisburg-Essen:
European Travel Reports on Persia around 1700

15:15 Coffee
15:45 Statement: Willibald Steinmetz, Bielefeld
16:00 Discussion
18:00 Dinner at ZiF

Friday, 4 February

Section III:
Governance by numbers: Making comparisons quantitative
Moderator: Michael Huber, Bielefeld

9:30 Lars Behrisch, Utrecht:
Inventing statistics in the 18th century
10:00 Michael Power, London:
Accounting and Finance
10:30 Coffee
11:00 Statement: Nils Brunsson, Uppsala
11:15 Discussion
12:15 Lunch

Section IV:
Comparisons and modernization
Moderator: Angelika Epple, Bielefeld

13:45 Martin Geyer, Munich:
Constructing the modern world through comparisons. Social Indicators and modernization paradigms of the post war period
14:15 Statement: John Meyer, Stanford
14:30 Discussion
15:30 Coffee
16:00 Final discussion
Moderator: Thomas Welskopp, Bielefeld
17:00 Coffee / End of Conference
20:00 For those who leave later, possibility of a common dinner

Conference venue:
Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Forschung
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