

## COMPARING & CHANGE: ORDERS, MODELS, PERCEPTIONS

The way we compare objects, concepts or people is closely related to the way we form a picture of the world and how it changes. When we compare, we attach more importance to certain objects of comparison and comparative views than to others. As a social practice and scientific method, comparison creates order; it is the key to the genesis, change and preservation of categories, norms and values.

At the SFB 1288-Midterm Conference from 16 to 18 June 2022 in Bielefeld, the following questions will be explored: What role does comparison play in the perception, representation and shaping of social and historical change? More specifically: Are practices of comparing catalysts, drivers or mirrors of change? How do these practices develop and in what ways are they influenced by other social, cultural and scientific practices and processes? Especially here, the question of how these processes and situations are modelled also plays a role. What factors are included in models of change and how are they weighted?

Processes of social change can be initiated suddenly, for example in response to political, economic and environmental challenges. Or they can be gradual and take place over a long period of time; they can affect smaller systems, communities and practices or have far-reaching, sometimes even global and historical impacts. Together with (inter)national speakers, the diversity and plurality of such processes of change will be considered. We will discuss how these processes are conceived, represented and brought about. We want to approach the topic by examining the particular orders, models and perceptions in different time periods and world regions that serve to describe, explain or bring about phenomena of change, and how they are related to practices of comparison.

### CONTACT

**Antje Flüchter**  
antje.fluechter@uni-bielefeld.de

**Kirsten Kramer**  
kirsten.kramer@uni-bielefeld.de

**Rebecca Mertens**  
rmertens@uni-bielefeld.de

**Silke Schwandt**  
silke.schwandt@uni-bielefeld.de

### WEB

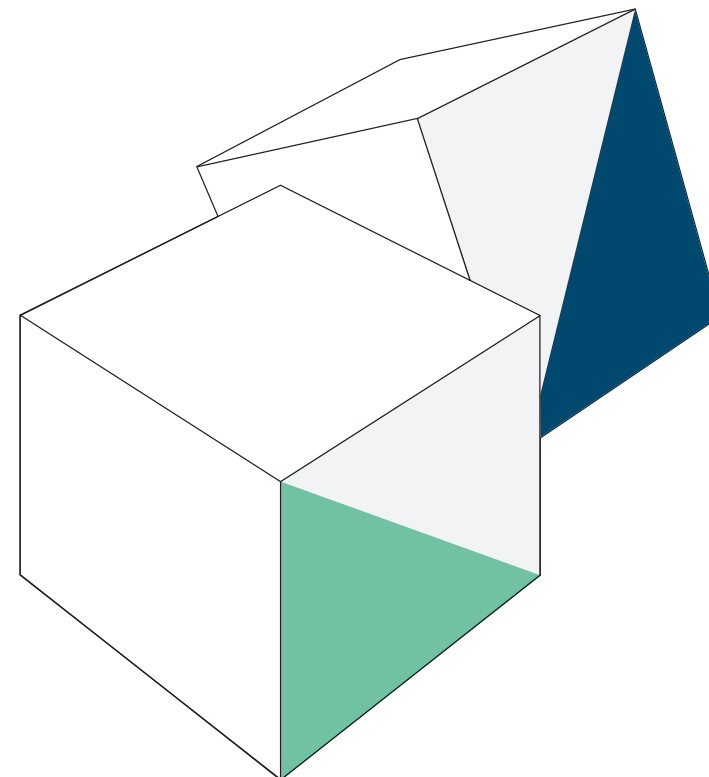
[www.uni-bielefeld.de/sfb1288](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/sfb1288)

Twitter: @sfb\_comparing

### LOCATION

Schüco Arena  
(Arminia Bielefeld)  
Melanchthonstr. 31a  
33615 Bielefeld

CITEC Building  
(Bielefeld University)  
Inspiration 1  
33619 Bielefeld



## SFB 1288- MIDTERM- CONFERENCE

### COMPARING & CHANGE: ORDERS, MODELS, PERCEPTIONS

16.-18.06.2022 | Bielefeld University

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

In addition to presentations by SFB 1288 members, we welcome the following speakers, among others:

Mary Morgan, *London School of Economics and Political Science, London*: Comparing Countries: The Paradox of Too Many Numbers?

David Nirenberg, *Department of History, Chicago / IAS Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton*: Writing the long History of Race: Comparison, Analogy, or Inter-Connection?

Joan-Pau Rubiés, *ICREA & Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona*: Early Modern Comparatism and the Idea of Historical Progress

Angus Nicholls, *School of Languages, Linguistics and Film, London*: Theories of Stadiac Change in the German 'Geisteswissenschaften' around 1870-1900: Bastian, Dilthey, Scherer and Boas

### THURSDAY, 16.06.2022 (SCHÜCO ARENA | ARMINIA BIELEFELD)

FROM 05:00 PM Arrival

05:30-06:00 PM **WELCOME**  
SFB 1288 Spokeswoman Antje Flüchter, Kirsten Kramer & Rebecca Mertens

**EVENING LECTURE**  
Mary Morgan, *London*: Comparing Countries: The Paradox of Too Many Numbers?  
Moderation: Antje Flüchter, *Bielefeld*

FROM 08:00 PM Reception

### FRIDAY, 17.06.2022 (CITEC | BIELEFELD UNIVERSITY)

09:00-09:15 AM **WELCOME**  
SFB 1288 Spokeswoman Antje Flüchter

09:15-11:15 AM **PANEL I**  
Moderation: Carsten Reinhardt, *Bielefeld*

Silke Schwandt & Rebecca Mertens, *Bielefeld*: Modeling the Relationship between Social, Scientific and Political Change in the FRG and the USA, 1950-1990

Maximilian Benz, *Bielefeld*: Crisis of Model and Modeling. Attempts at Re-Orientation through Comparative Practices in Late Medieval Piety

11:15 AM Coffee Break

11:30 AM-12:30 PM Daniel Eschkötter, *Bielefeld*: Left, Right. The Order of Images and the Visibility of Change.

12:30 PM Lunch Break

02:00-04:00 PM **PANEL II**  
Moderation: Cornelia Aust, *Bielefeld*

Antje Flüchter, *Bielefeld*: 'Modeling the World' or 'Models of the World' in Premodern Times? Practices of Comparison in Texts about People, States, Health and Salvation

David Nirenberg, *Chicago / Princeton*: Writing the long History of Race: Comparison, Analogy, or Inter-Connection?

04:00 PM Coffee Break

04:30-05:30 PM Joan-Pau Rubiés, *Barcelona*: Early Modern Comparatism and the Idea of Historical Process

05:30 PM Short Break

05:45-06:45 PM **PANEL DISCUSSION OF THE SFB 1288 DOCTORAL STUDENTS**  
Moderation: Tobias Werron, *Bielefeld*

FROM 06:45 PM Joint Dinner

### SATURDAY, 18.06.2022 (CITEC | BIELEFELD UNIVERSITY)

09:00-11:00 AM **PANEL III**  
Moderation: Elisa Ronzheimer, *Bielefeld*

Walter Erhart, *Bielefeld*: Introduction: Global Frames of Comparison. Ethnographic Journeys Around the World (1810-1860)

Angus Nicholls, *London*: Theories of Stadiac Change in the German 'Geisteswissenschaften' around 1870-1900: Bastian, Dilthey, Scherer and Boas

Kirsten Kramer, *Bielefeld*: Modeling Diversity, Comparability, and Change. Transformations of the Comparative Method in French Ethnography after 1900

11:00 AM Coffee Break

11:30 AM-01:30 PM **PANEL IV**  
Moderation: Peter Krämper, *Bielefeld*

Thomas Müller & Mathias Albert, *Bielefeld*: Making Sense of World Political Change, 1970 to 2020

Angelika Epple, *Bielefeld*: Comparing and Globalizing. The Paradox of Unintended Effects.

01:30 PM Lunch Break

03:00-04:30 PM **ROUND TABLE**  
Ulrike Davy, Carlos Spoerhase, Willibald Steinmetz, *Bielefeld*, & Andreas Pečar, *Halle*  
Moderation: Antje Flüchter, *Bielefeld*

FROM 04:30 PM Coffee Break & Departure