

Genealogy of Popular Science (Karlsruhe, 15–16 Jun 2018)

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Jun 15–16, 2018

Deadline: Jan 31, 2018

Jesús Muñoz Morcillo, Institut für Bau- und Kunstgeschichte am Karlsruher Institut für Technologie

Dear Colleagues,

you are cordially invited to submit abstracts for the International Conference

"Genealogy of Popular Science. From Ancient Ecphrasis to Virtual Reality"

that will be held on June 15-16, 2018 at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany.

The aim of this conference is to initiate an interdisciplinary, genealogically reflected debate about Popular Science as a recurrent cultural technique. The category Popular Science will be elucidated in an interdisciplinary and diachronic way, focusing on both its socio-anthropological construction and the formal and functional techniques, which characterize the dissemination of scientific knowledge in its production and reception contexts. For this purpose, philological and iconographic research approaches are especially welcomed, but other disciplines such as the Sociology of Science, the History of Science, and Gender Studies are also beneficial for the main goal. The multi-layered examination of the cultural technique "Popular Science" will throw light on a research field that has hardly been investigated so far.

The lectures given during the conference will be published in an edited volume.

Possible topics may include, but are by no means limited to:

Antiquity:

ancient rhetoric and the ancient public, progymnasmata, ecphrasis, technical ecphrasis, didactic poetry, techniques for seeing the unseeable (*enargeia*), satire and science, protreptical speeches and exoteric texts, the public of ancient historiography, poikilography as science popularization, art and *sophía*, dissemination of myths and history in Greek pottery, aesthetics of education, places of knowledge and performance, depictions of philosophers and "scientists" in Antiquity.

Middle Ages:

the preacher as a human medium, vulgar Latin and *Weltanschauung*, world history in vernacular languages, encyclopaedic telling, origin of the *Studia Generalia*, goliardic traditions, sacred art and *Weltanschauung*, the public of illuminated manuscripts, reformation and popularization of knowledge.

Renaissance:

emigration of Byzantine scholars and ideas to the West, impact of the printing machine in the popularization of knowledge, ecphrasis and painting, public lectures, the *Theatrum Anatomicum*, new science ex suppositione and superstition, the public of the cabinets of wonders, impact of the *paragone delle arti* on the dissemination of knowledge, public communication of inventions and discoveries.

Modernity:

the first modern science communicators, scientific experiments as spectacle for the public, the figure of the experimentator in the arts, satire, and mode periodicals as source of popular scientific knowledge, relationship between inventions and decoration (e.g. Newton's cradle), legitimation discourses on natural sciences, social acceptability, depictions of scientists, women as early science communicators, poetry and science in Romanticism, scientific bestsellers.

Contemporary:

history of modern science communication, origins and means of public understanding of science, scientific literacy, public engagement, the golden age of science publicists in the mass media (Carl Sagan, Attenborough, Kenneth Clark etc.), gender equality in science communication, art as science communication, new media and old techniques of science communication, virtual reality and museums etc.

Cross-epochal topics:

political function of science communication, gender issues, continuity and / or recurrence of certain communication formats, diachronic discourse analysis, representation of scientists and the public in the course of time.

Guidelines for Abstract Submission

Researchers from Germany and abroad are invited to email an abstract for a paper (up to 500 words, in German or English) and a short CV to Dr. Jesús Muñoz Morcillo (jesus.morcillo@kit.edu) by Wednesday, 31 January 2018, midnight. The time allocated for a paper presentation is 30 minutes and 15 minutes for work-in-progress-presentations. Please, follow the instructions below.

Language: German or English

Format's description: Lecture (30 min.) or Work-in-Progress Talk (15 min.)

Lecture: relevant contribution to research, i.e., paper presentation

Work-in-Progress Talk: preliminary results

Participation in the publication (yes/no)

Length of the title: max. 150 characters

Text body: 500 words (Arial 12px; 1.5 line spacing)

Bibliography: quoted texts and further literature

Curriculum Vitae

Contact details: surname, first name, E-Mail, institution, telephone number

Deadlines

Submission of the abstract: Wednesday, 31 January 2018, midnight

Author notification: Wednesday, 28 February 2018

Submission of the paper: Thursday, 31 May 2018, midnight

Conference: Friday, 15 June 2018 (4 p.m.-8 p.m.) and Saturday, 16 June 2018 (9 a.m.-6 p.m.)

For more information please visit the conference site at:

German: <http://www.zak.kit.edu/5699.php>

English: <http://www.zak.kit.edu/english/5723.php>

Scientific Head

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Abteilung Mediävistik und Frühneuzeitforschung, Prof. Dr. Mathias Herweg

Reference:

CFP: Genealogy of Popular Science (Karlsruhe, 15-16 Jun 2018). In: ArtHist.net, Nov 30, 2017 (accessed Mar 27, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/16847>>.