# Summer Course: Organizing Knowledge in Printed Books (Wolfenbüttel, 3-14 Aug 20)

Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, Germany, Aug 3–14, 2020
Deadline: Mar 15, 2020

Stephanie Leitch, Florida State University

44th International Wolfenbüttel Summer Course: Early Modern Visual Data: Organizing Knowledge in Printed Books
Instructor: Stephanie Leitch (Florida State University)

Application deadline: 15 March 2020

Course Topic:
As prints taught viewers how to observe and thus arguably democratized knowledge derived from first-hand experience, this seminar considers printed images as critical visual technology that built knowledge acquisition. The extent to which printed illustrations promoted empirical investigation and shaped disciplinary fields of study has been the subject of sustained inquiry in art history and the history of science. Important studies by Susan Dackerman, Suzanne Karr Schmidt, Sachiko Kusukawa, Brian Ogilvie, Lorraine Daston, Katherine Park, Alexander Marr, Volker Remmert, Gianna Pomata, and William Eamon have scrutinized how prints fixed the approach and parameters of the disciplines of botany, anatomy, medicine, astronomy, and natural history. Publications devoted to these topics featured prints that flickered between visual tools and data reserves. These prints had multiple jobs: they documented, recorded, served as mnemonic prompts, and cued first hand engagement with the world. These visual tools—or data—helped shape the practice of field surgery, anatomy, cosmography, natural history, and cartography. They also sharpened the cognitive skill-sets implemented in how-to genres including palm reading (chiromancy), books that promised to assist the reader in diagnosing characters of peoples (physiognomy), and even the treatment and care of horses (hippiatria).

Strikingly, but perhaps not accidentally, many of these prints had similar formal properties, some of these driven by the imperatives of publishers busy cultivating new audiences of vernacular readers. Weighing, judging, and observing were just a few of the how-to skills that such prints enabled—but they were important links to empirical experience generally. In this seminar, we will inspect the kindred function of images across diverse and seemingly disparate texts.

Topics to be covered:
-visual tools, volvelles, dials
-artists' manuals
-physiognomy, chiromancy
-portraits

-cartographic representations
-natural history, fossils, spatial organization
-anatomical publications
-mnemonic and didactic manuals
-role of the copy

Course tutors:
-Joost Depuydt, Museum Plantin-Moretus, Antwerp
-Robert Felfe, Universität Konstanz
-Sietske Fransen, Bibliotheca Hertziana, Max Planck Institute for Art History
-Stephanie Porras, Tulane University
-Thomas Schauerte, Director, Museen der Stadt Aschaffenburg
-Suzanne Karr Schmidt, Newberry Library, Chicago

The Summer Course is addressed to masters and doctoral students and will be conducted in English. Mornings will be devoted to presentations by the participants and to workshops led by senior scholars in the field. Key readings (in English and German) will be circulated in advance. In the afternoons, participants will be able to use the holdings of the Herzog August Bibliothek for their own work and will have opportunities to hold individual or group discussions with those teaching the course. The library offers up to fifteen places for participants and will cover their expenses for accommodation and breakfast. Each participant will receive a subsidy of 100 Euros to cover living costs. Participants are expected to pay their own travel expenses.

There is no application form. In a letter, applicants should state their reasons for wishing to participate in the course and send a c.v. that describes their academic career and their current research. Please also supply the address of an academic referee who may be contacted to provide a reference if needed.

The deadline is 15 March 2020.

Applications should be submitted, preferably by email, to:
forschung@hab.de

For further information:
http://www.hab.de/en/home/research/young-scholars-programmes/summer-course-2020.html

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Reference:

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