



estalten

Humanities create.



ermitteln

Humanities communicate.



rinnern

Humanities remember.

The Year of the Humanities – An Overview

Science Year 2007

Humanities.

ABC of
Humankind

Dear Reader,

The humanities spell the ABCs of humankind, from A to Z. Their value cannot be overstated, for they reflect the cultural basis of humankind, be it in subjects such as philosophy, American studies, or Turkish studies. The humanities cannot be defined in terms of their direct benefits. And this is precisely where their strength lies – in the fact that they are detached from direct application. The humanities can build bridges between the different cultures, origins, worldview, identities and beliefs which make up our society.

The philosopher Odo Marquard wrote that the more modern the modern world, the more inevitable the humanities. The advances made in medicine or, say, genetic engineering allow intervention in human life to an extent that would have been inconceivable in earlier days. Examining the consequences of these changes to the perception of man, and, where appropriate, criticising them, both fall into the domain of the humanities. The humanities question humankind's image of itself and by so doing, help to shape that self-image.

In order to boost the German humanities' position in international competition, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research is launching a programme called New Opportunities for Research in the Humanities. Opportunities, environment and time for research are the prerequisite for



top-level research. The aim of the programme is to guarantee internationally outstanding scientists the independence they need from time and other constraints, so that they may successfully conduct their research.

In the Science Year 2007, a plethora of events and publications will enable all of us to witness and experience the diversity and quality of the humanities. I invite you to come and discover the humanities in Germany in 2007!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Annette Schavan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Annette Schavan

Federal Minister of Education and Research

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ufklärung

Enlightenment.

What would people be without questions?

The Science Year 2007

The humanities

2007 is the first Science Year dedicated to the humanities. After seven years focusing on the natural sciences, this year it is the diversity and significance of the humanities, their disciplines, topics and methods that will be made visible to the general public.



The aim is to shine a light on the internationally recognised excellence of the humanities in Germany, for all to see. At the same time, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research gave the humanities a strong boost at the beginning of the year by launching the Freedom for Research in the Humanities programme.

Language is the strongest element linking the different disciplines of the humanities. Language is the prerequisite for every kind of thinking. Language is speech, as well as facial expression, body language, music and dance. The humanities define themselves through language. All this is symbolically reflected in the central motto of the Science Year 2007: "The Humanities. The ABCs of Humankind".

The core of work in the humanities can be described in terms of three dimensions "Imparting knowledge – Creating – Remembering".

IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE

The humanities thrive on the word. They analyse concepts and meanings, they interpret and impart content and thus secure the basis for our human culture. Within the spectrum of the different humanities subjects, the disciplines which impart knowledge are, first and foremost, the study of languages and cultures – ranging from the study of rare languages to the major subjects such as English and German.



CREATING

The humanities both reflect and shape reality at the same time. They create “images of the world” and communicate them in their own way. They help us to recognise and are at the same time an image of the world. The aesthetic discovery of the world is a topic in art, drama, film and music.

REMEMBERING

The humanities are the bridge between the past, the present and the future. By remembering and preserving this past, they put their stamp on cultures and traditions and open society up to the future.

In the Science Year 2007, the public will be shown a lively science landscape. Together with the Wissenschaft im Dialogue (Science in Dialogue) initiative and numerous partners from the science, business and cultural

spheres, we will bring the humanities to the public: in discussions, exhibitions, competitions, publications and many other ways. Schools, museums, theatres, universities, foundations, research institutions, cities, companies and the media are all contributing to the programme for the Science Year 2007.

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research has been organising Science Years since 2000, starting with the Year of Physics and followed by the Year of Life Sciences, the Year of Geosciences, the Year of Chemistry, the Year of Technology, the Einstein Year and, in 2006, the Year of Information Technology.





courage

Courage.

What would ideology be without contradiction?

New Opportunities for Research in the Humanities

A programme launched by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research

The humanities in Germany enjoy an excellent reputation worldwide. The multifaceted humanities landscape in Germany is a magnet that attracts, in particular, young academics from all over Europe, Asia and the US. Of the scholarship holders from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, 34% of those from North America are from humanities disciplines, and, likewise, 37% of those from western Europe are also from the humanities or the social sciences – a far higher percentage than the corresponding proportion in Germany or at research institutes in the scholarship holders'



home countries. By the same token, young German researchers from the humanities are highly sought-after abroad.

In order to enhance this leading position, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research will be promoting and boosting the humanities with a 12-year New Opportunities for Research in the Humanities programme. The programme will be launched at the start of 2007, and aims to give outstanding scientists the necessary time and freedom to conduct excellent research. The establishment of "research schools in the humanities" in coordination with the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation) and the Pro Humanities initiative are further examples of recently-launched programmes that are tailored to the specific needs of research in the humanities. The aim is to significantly enhance the international potential of the humanities at German universities.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SCHOOLS

The centrepiece of the New Opportunities for Research in the Humanities initiative is a new facility being offered to the research community: up to twelve international research schools are being set up at universities with an outstanding record in humanities research. These schools will be the

forums of globalised knowledge, where professors will be able to exchange knowledge and ideas with their colleagues and fellows from abroad. The international research schools will provide a large degree of independence from administrative obligations and opportunities as well as time for scientific debate. Researchers tied up with teaching and administrative duties will be given what they lack most: time.

THE HUMANITIES IN EUROPEAN COMPETITION

For the first time, not least owing to Germany's strong commitment, topics and issues relating to the humanities will be explicitly stated in the 7th RTD Framework Programme of the EU. In order to make it easier for German researchers in the humanities to participate in European research networks, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research is providing support for start-up phases of up to a year for European projects. Germany's national contact point for the social and economic sciences and the humanities will be offering professional consultation services to support these researchers on their journey into the European research area.

Another focus is the interdependency between the humanities and the natural sciences. Collaboration between the



natural and engineering sciences and the humanities will be supported in cross-disciplinary research networks, thus enabling both science cultures to benefit from one another. Research topics in the fields of archaeology, as well as literature and linguistics, will receive support. A third focus will be on the interpreting function of the humanities.

Excellent research is also being carried out at the Humanities Research Centres in Germany. In 2006, the German Science Council, which advises the Federal Government on higher education and research funding policy, gave five out of the six Humanities Research Centres a good rating. Consequently, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Länder want to ensure the continuance of these centres.



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Ethics.

What would research be without reflection?

No ivory towers

A description of the humanities

Today, the humanities are more important than ever before. In fact, the advances made in the natural sciences continue to throw up the old questions: What are humans? And what are they meant to be? It is the duty of the humanities to seek answers to questions like these or to pose these questions over and over again – for there will never be any final answers.

The humanities teach us to regard the human being as a complex intellectual being that is constantly changing. Historians investigate how the past was different from the



present and how it affects the present. Their critical gaze is pointed at the other, the alien side of ourselves. Linguistic and cultural studies not only interpret different languages, but also shed light on the problem of communication between different cultures and cultural practices. In the natural sciences, industry and research have moved increasingly closer to one another over the last few years. The humanities and their subjects, however, do not lend themselves to immediate application. And that is why they can create visions and new ideas that reach beyond the present.

The humanities are exceedingly wide-ranging. They encompass approximately 100 subjects – including languages, cultural studies and the fine arts.

The terms “languages” and “cultural studies” immediately bring to mind subjects such as German, English, Romance languages or American studies. However, the spectrum is much broader than that. It includes Chinese, Japanese, African and Islamic studies, as well as classic and modern philology, which look at the languages, geography and literature of all non-European countries and cultures. Indeed, the list goes on to include subjects such as philosophy, religion, history, archaeology and communication studies. And the practitioners include film directors, actors and church musicians, although these subjects are taught not only at universities, but also at special schools and academies.



The humanities emerged from the school of philosophy, which evolved from the arts of the middle ages. These comprised the subjects of the so-called quadrivium (arithmetic, geometry, astronomy and harmonics) and the so-called studia humanitatis (history, literary studies and grammar). The rise of the school of philosophy in the 19th century also mirrors the rise of the humanities. Originally conceived as preparatory studies

preceding a theological or juristic career, they developed in the course of time into disciplines in their own right.

The term humanities originates in the 19th century. After initially being used to designate the "moral science" defined by the British philosopher John Stuart Mill, the term came into its own and became more widespread, in particular due to the work of the German philosopher and teacher Wilhelm Dilthey, who conceived a philosophical doctrine aimed at a systematic understanding of what he called the "intellectual world". In his essay of 1883 "Einleitung in die Geisteswissenschaften" (Introduction to the humanities), he defined the "understanding" of relationships between things as being a characteristic of the humanities, while he assigned the role of explaining such relationships to the natural sciences. Today, scientists are less preoccupied with this distinction than with the question of how different science cultures can work together in order to better understand and shape the world.

A black and white photograph of two men in profile, facing each other and kissing on the cheek. The man on the left has short, dark hair and is wearing a suit jacket and a tie. The man on the right has short, light-colored hair, wears glasses, and is also in a suit. The background is out of focus, showing other people in a crowd.

edächtnis

Memory.

What would progress be without memories?

Excellent diversity

The science landscape in Germany

No other branch of science in Germany is as diversified as the humanities. According to the German Science Council, there are 17 areas of study and 96 subjects. The Philosophischer Fakultätentag (Faculties of Philosophy Conference) is an association of 133 mostly humanities faculties and departments at 56 German universities. Music, art and performing arts or drama are taught at art schools. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research alone provides €260 million in funds for the humanities, which is distributed among research institutions and the DFG, as well as being used to finance specific projects. In addition there are funds from the Länder, from foundations, from the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media.

According to the German Science Council, the quality of research in this country is very high by international standards – not just in fields such as German studies and German history, which by dint of their nature are primarily based in Germany, but also in others.

Subjects such as the classics, including classic philology, philosophy, Egyptology or art history, have been considerably influenced by research done here in Germany. Reference books and encyclopedia are often published in German, and German continues to be an important language at international congresses. There is interdisciplinary cooperation between various disciplines of the humanities in special research fields and in postgraduate studies. For example, historians, literary scholars, oriental

scholars, philosophers and social scientists work together on subjects such as “cultures of remembering”, which looks at the forms and functions of remembering from antiquity to the 21st century. Similarly, researchers from the fields of linguistics, philosophy and the neurosciences are collaborating on research investigating the relationship between the mind and the brain, i.e. subjects such as “free will”, “justice” and “ethics”.





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Homeland.

What would the familiar be without the unknown?

The whole gamut of humanities subjects is also reflected in the research at non-university institutions. At just one institution alone – namely the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities – there are 147 research projects under way in connection with the humanities and social sciences. They include the compilation of a Goethe dictionary; another project involves a collection of material on the Westfalian Peace Treaty. Likewise, 14 institutes of the Leibniz Society and 7 of the Max Planck Society are also focusing on research in the humanities. Added to these are dozens of institutions funded by the Federal Government or the Länder, such as the German Historical Institutes abroad, the German Archaeological Institute with its numerous branches and excavation sites, the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin and the Humanities Research Centres.

Private foundations such as the Volkswagen Foundation, Robert Bosch Foundation and Gerda Henkel Foundation, not to mention numerous other smaller organisations, also play an important role in funding research in Germany. Their financial contributions range from grants for printing costs for individual publications to funding for large-scale research projects. Various foundations have joined forces to create the Pro Humanities programme, which offers Dilthey Fellowships to young researchers to support longer-term and, in some cases, risky, projects, enabling them to complete large-scale book projects, for which they lack the freedom in day-to-day academic life.



The humanities need have no fear of a shortage of researchers in the future. In 2003, a good 350,000 students had opted for humanities subjects; in other words, 26% of all students were studying humanities, compared to 19% in 1990. These students are taught by approximately 5,500 professors at German higher education institutions. German continues to be the most popular subject, with about 95,000 students enrolled for this subject in 2003, followed by English and American studies (approx. 49,000), history (approx. 37,000) and Romance languages (approx. 23,000).

Good or bad prospects?

Humanities graduates in the job market

Getting started is always hard – as every recent graduate seeking work well knows. And humanities graduates sometimes have a particularly tough time getting a foothold in the labour market. The number of jobs explicitly tailored to humanities graduates has been falling for years. Humanities graduates are having to prove themselves in jobs with special requirements, for which their degrees have, at best, partially prepared them.

However, even if getting a first job is not easy, it is, of course, possible for humanities graduates to pursue a good career. Like graduates with other types of degrees, humanities graduates are as likely to have found regular employment a few years after they graduated. Unemployment among humanities graduates is about 6% – thus only slightly higher than the unemployment rate for university graduates as a whole, but considerably lower than the average rate for all occupations.

Students of the humanities have become much more flexible and internationally minded. They increasingly go abroad – primarily to Western Europe and the US. About one-quarter of the students who spend one or two semesters in Europe on an Erasmus or Socrates scholarship are

studying a humanities subject. Of all the subject groups, they constitute the largest proportion.

Nowadays, no one assumes that a philosophy student will actually ever work as a philosopher. The range of occupations for humanities graduates has widened. During their degree courses, students acquire skills that can be used in many different areas of employment. These skills include structured thinking, argumentation, critical analysis and creativity. The Zentralstelle für Arbeitsvermittlung in Bonn (Central Placement Office – Germany’s national and international personnel service agency) has no doubt that if humanities graduates are able to competently analyse historical sources or literary texts, they can also look at a company’s data and compile a financial report. Furthermore, their often excellent communication skills are an additional asset.





These so-called soft skills have now come to be cherished by businesses. Provided they have the requisite additional qualifications, humanities graduates are increasingly being recruited in areas involving communication between companies and the public, i.e. their customers, be it in marketing, PR or human resources. That is why it is particularly important for students to gather their first work experience during their study courses, says Dr Christian Kerst, expert for graduate research at the higher education institutions information system in Hanover. Placements, for example, enable students not only to find out where their occupational preferences lie, but also to forge useful contacts for entering the labour market at a later stage.



CULTURE AS A SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY

It is difficult to quantify the contribution of humanities graduates to Germany's economic output. For this reason, the so-called cultural sector, where a particularly large number of humanities graduates are to be found, is used as an indicator. According to the working group on cultural statistics, the 200,000 or so companies from this sector, working in architecture, design, music, film, literature, software/games and advertising, generated an annual turnover of €117 billion in 2004. This puts the sector just behind the car industry in terms of gross value added.

The German Science Council, the Federal Government's advisory body for research and teaching policy, comes to the following conclusion: its Recommendations for Developing and Promoting the Humanities in Germany, published in early 2006, show that both research and teaching in the humanities are highly recognised internationally. It would therefore be inappropriate to talk generally in terms of a crisis. The employment market offers humanities graduates good job opportunities. Naturally there are risks – but there is also the prospect of success.

Comments on the humanities

“The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.”

Ludwig Wittgenstein, philosopher

“The central importance of the humanities for the modern world lies not in the fact that they compensate for modernity, but that they implement it: modern culture is culture that bears the stamp of scientific reflection.”

Ernst Tugendhat, philosopher

“Scientists know exactly how two atoms are held together within a molecule. But what holds our society together?”

Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann, demographer

“The humanities flexibly equip students with the knowledge and skills they need for the employment market precisely because of, not despite, the fact that they do not provide training for a specific profession.”

Dieter Langewiesche, historian

“The actions of the individual over time, his repeated attempts to make sense of his history, his present actions and his future against the pull of inward incentives and outward constraints, become the subject of what came to be known in the 19th century as the humanities. Understanding human

actions and making others understand them is a fundamental, distinctive, essential prerequisite for being able to construe the human condition and assess the opportunities and risks of the future.”

Alfons Labisch, medical historian

“The humanities have the tremendous advantage that they open up pauses for thought that are free of matter.”

Stephan Frucht, Managing Director of the Cultural Circle of the Federation of German Industries (BDI)

“The humanities disciplines best demonstrate their worth through high-quality and interesting research. Furthermore, cooperation with other disciplines is not the final attempt to prove the social relevance of the humanities, but rather the prerequisite for deepening research. At the same time, however, the humanities should not shrink from this challenge.”

Stefan Huster, jurist



Ludwig Wittgenstein



Ernst Tugendhat



Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann



Silke Schicktanzt

“In the light of the practical, social and political problems we are confronted with by the bio-sciences, we can see how indispensable the humanities, with their methods and content, can be if they themselves activate their knowledge and incorporate it into a cross-disciplinary debate.”

Silke Schicktanzt, biologist and bioethicist



Roland Berger

“By practically combining the way of thinking practised in the humanities with the methods and approaches that are taught in the social, economic and natural sciences and technological disciplines, we enrich our society, both materially and otherwise, and make it altogether more innovative. In order to make the best use of the cultural opportunities and opportunities for wealth provided by a highly differentiated economy built on the division of labour, we need the skills of those educated in the humanities. Their strengths lie in their powers of analysis and conception, in processes of understanding and communicating. As a rule, they are open to the new and show a certain composure in unstructured situations.”

Roland Berger, management consultant



Klaus Staeck

“If science in Germany was oriented solely towards technological innovation and economic competitiveness, we would not master the challenges of the future. In fact, globalisation also requires the humanities to play a bigger role. The study of our own and other cultures furthers knowledge, but also increases doubts and ultimately generates tolerance

and openness; in other words it equips us for succeeding in a highly complex world.”

Klaus Staeck, President of the Academy of Arts, Berlin

“The achievements of the humanities in Germany, both in research as well as in educating and training future humanities graduates, are of a very high standard and internationally recognised. These achievements are brought about in international exchange, which has become a matter of course, and they set new standards in many fields. The humanities belong to those areas of the sciences that enhance Germany’s image internationally as a nation of culture and research. They both contribute towards Germany’s cultural and political self-assurance and generate added economic value.”

Statement of the German Science Council (2006)

Imparting knowledge – Remembering – Creating

Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, enjoying a performance at La Scala, Milan, or having a one-to-one discussion with Jürgen Habermas – these would be magical moments which many people today would be thrilled to experience. Do we need the humanities for this? Everyone would agree that we do not to climb a mountain; at La Scala, however, a knowledge of music and art history would certainly be a plus; and in a philosophical discussion, knowledge of the humanities would be a great deal more than just useful. But, even when it comes to climbing a mountain, the humanities are still present in the background. It was in 1336 that Petrarch climbed Mont Ventoux and, reaching the summit, praised the beauty of nature – a first in Western culture. No one before had regarded nature as “beautiful”, but saw it as being useful, dangerous or as reflecting divine order. This marked the birth of the observation of nature, which has since swept through the ages, from romantic painters to nature-loving rambblers. Does such knowledge intensify the moment of experiencing? Presumably not. However, by widening our perception of nature, it has opened up new ways of thinking.



Another phenomenon at the beginning of the development of the modern humanities was a particular fascination with “terra incognita”: our fascination with the Middle Ages, which

were considered for centuries to be a dark age characterised by ignorance, as well as fascination with other continents. Scholars began to look further afield than Europe and became interested in the history of Indian and Persian art and literature. A vanguard of students, painters, writers and philosophers were the driving force behind this development. Philology grew out of the efforts to understand old sources and explain them to other readers and critics. Generally applicable standards evolved for the interpretation and



publication of literary texts or for the recording of history. Later, philology gave rise to linguistics and literary theory, which established themselves at universities as subjects in their own right with different thematic and regional focuses. Similarly, art history as a scholarly discipline also emerged at the end of classicism, around the year 1800. For the scholarly, historically accurate discipline of art history now turned its critical gaze to the specific characteristics of painting and sculpture from the different epochs. The classicist canon became increasingly less important with regard to the humanities. Subjects that had previously been taught merely in preparation for the study of theology, law or medicine, now became the subject of scholarly activity themselves: art, history, literature, philosophy and language. The university as an institution of general and comprehensive education and research was born.

IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE

The core competence of the humanities lies in comprehension and criticism. The humanities not only propose canons, theories and paradigms, but also question them again. "Yesterday, today was still tomorrow" – this observation about time also applies to the humanities: reflection on subjects is linked to reflection on one's own actions. Depending on perspective and method, today can be yesterday or tomorrow. Thus a central competence of the humanities is interpretation. Interpretation is based on a process of communication involving many different parties. We live with and within an understanding of the world that is determined by society and

culture, and is shifting and contradictory. What most people do subconsciously, the humanities pursue systematically and far beyond the ordinary demands of life. They help us, for example, to understand works of art by talking about them and translating what is depicted or performed into a vocabulary we can all understand.

How can we understand a medieval poem, the language of which is no longer spoken? What symbolic meaning do the colours in Renaissance paintings have? Can composers communicate with the audience through their music? If so, how does it work, this special communication process, in which there are no spoken or written words, but only time and sound?



The arts, however, are not the only example of the humanities' capacity for imparting knowledge. The growth of knowledge about far-flung corners of the Earth, which contributed to the development of modern science in the 19th century, was like an explosion for the people of the time. The term "globalisation" did not exist in those days, but its first effects were already beginning to show. This was a development which, for the people of the time, was just as dramatic and difficult to assess as present-day developments are for us. Then, as today, the interdependency between a "globalised" economy, political system and culture was elemental. What Max Weber already realised – that, for example, religions and their way of influencing everyday life and thinking have a considerable impact on economic systems – we had to learn all over again after the first "globalisation shock". Certainly, linguistics and cultural studies can bring us closer to finding the answer to the question of whether cultural differences are the causes or the instruments of political and military conflicts, such as those currently determining events in the Middle East. Even though enlightenment in this regard does not stifle such conflicts, it is nonetheless the first step towards resolving them.



REMEMBERING

Those who seek to understand need a memory. Like a kind of highly-specialised memory, the humanities maintain our access to knowledge about the past. They do this in two ways. Historians describe the past by drawing on available sources, although history is constantly "rewritten", since the recording of history inevitably also reflects the present day. However, historical research does not merely ask the question "what?", and thus simply seek knowledge about the past, but also the question "how?". What knowledge did the people of a particular epoch possess? How did they define knowledge? What did they believe to be proven? What did they see as being self-evident and what as questionable? How does our present-day knowledge determine our view of the past?

At the same time, historical research also corrects individual memories and oral traditions. Places like Auschwitz, memorials such as the Brandenburg Gate, or a novel such as "The Tin Drum" leave their mark on the collective memory and form a complex context within which individual memories move. The humanities investigate this interplay between the individual and collective memory and rescue much from oblivion. Whether or not we actually learn from history is a different matter. Nonetheless, critical discussion about Germany's past was certainly necessary for our understanding of ourselves.



CREATING

The claim that the humanities – as scientific disciplines – create is indeed a provocative one. How can science create if it serves to explore and explain things that already exist? One of the merits of the humanities, however, is to show us precisely the creative role of science. When Michel Foucault wrote that man is a relatively recent invention, hardly more than 200 years old, he meant exactly this: we ourselves create our image of man, and the sciences help us to create this image. Therefore, the humanities will always be observing themselves. The fact that the humanities create is plain to see in places where science and the public meet. It is historians, art historians, theologians and communication designers who decide on the layout of objects in museums. Decisions about which showcases should be selected during the renovation of, for example, the Bode Museum in Berlin or the Green Vault in Dresden, or whether rooms should be given back their original look or, instead, emphasis be placed on how far-removed the present-day is from the historical building are not choices left to chance. The presentation of exhibits, the production of an opera or the translation

of poems are always tied up with choices, interpretation, and thus creation.

The Science Year 2007 invites you to come and encounter the humanities. By imparting knowledge, remembering and creating, they open up new avenues of freedom.

Events

A multitude of events will give the general public the opportunity to experience the humanities in the Science Year 2007

OPENING EVENT

Berlin, 25 January 2007

The Federal Minister of Education and Research, Dr Annette Schavan, will launch the Science Year 2007 at the Martin-Gropius-Bau in Berlin on 25 January 2007, under the motto: "The Humanities. The ABCs of Humankind". Also participating in the evening are Prof. Wolf Lepenies, Simone Young and the Chagall Quartet, Martina Gedeck and Bas Böttcher. The ceremony will also be attended by representatives from universities, foundations, research organisations and cultural institutes, as well as by well-known personalities from politics, business and the media.

CITY OF SCIENCE

Braunschweig

Throughout the year, Braunschweig – City of Science 2007 – will be hosting a multitude of programmes to focus the public's attention on science and research. There will be a series of projects in connection with the Year of the Humanities, including "Global Brain Sounds", the "Snakes and Dragons" exhibition, "Time Phenomena" and "Triadic Stage Concepts".

THE HUMANITIES AND BUSINESS

Wolfsburg, April 2007

At Volkswagen's AutoUni, representatives from companies, associations and the science community will discuss the contribution and role played by the humanities in business and industry. Future economic success not only depends on technological and scientific innovation, but also on opening up new approaches to understanding.

INTERNATIONALITY AND LANGUAGES

Berlin, April/May 2007

In late April, early May 2007, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) will be holding a symposium in Berlin to highlight the internationality of the humanities and the excellent reputation of the German humanities abroad. Four hundred or so foreign DAAD scholarship holders in Germany will discuss the subject of languages, as well as other topics relating to the humanities, with representatives from higher education institutions and embassies.

KULTOUREN – AN INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

Cologne, from 12 May 2007

"KulTouren" is the name given to a project that will bring the humanities to the city and initiate a dialogue with the public. The knowledge gathered in the research school for media and cultural communication will be





presented in a series of performances, workshops and talks at venues where its topicality can be demonstrated: in offices, cafés, theatres, studios and museums.

HABIMA – MOSCOW'S HEBREW THEATRE

Schloss Wahn near Cologne, 21 May to 13 July 2007

With its exhibition on HABIMA, the Hebrew theatre originally from Moscow, the University of Cologne's theatre archive at Schloss Wahn will be presenting theatre history to prompt the visitor to reflect on the present. The exhibition will present outstanding pictures documenting HABIMA productions. In addition, visitors can look forward to a performance of scenes from "The Dybbuk" and a programme involving young Russian Jewish artists.



MS WISSENSCHAFT 2007

4 June to 4 October 2007

Once again in 2007, the exhibition ship of the Wissenschaft im Dialog (Science in Dialogue) initiative will be calling at 30 cities along German rivers. This year, the exhibition on board will focus on the topic of language. Science approaches the subject of language from very different angles. Apart from the study of language as a discipline in itself, other disciplines such as ethnology, neurology, psychology and also the engineering sciences deal with aspects of language.



LANGUAGE – COGNITION – CULTURE

Mannheim, 6 to 8 March 2007

The Institut für Deutsche Sprache (IDS) – German Language Institute – in Mannheim is dedicating its 43rd international symposium entirely to the theme of this Science Year. Guests from 25 countries will delve into the whole spectrum of different aspects of language, looking at topics ranging from the neurobiological principles of the faculty of language to the social conditions of language use.

SUMMER OF SCIENCE 2007

Essen, 9 to 15 June 2007

Everyone "speaks" their own language, be it art or science, books, pictures or music. At the Summer of Science hosted by the Science in Dialogue initiative, 100 or so exhibitions, workshops, lectures and artistic performances will present and discuss current questions and findings from the world of humanities. The event will kick off with a Long Night of Science on 9 June.



prache

Language.

What would the world be without communication?



THE MYTH OF THE RHINE – SPHERE OF CULTURE, REGION OF BORDERS, PLACE OF MEMORIES

Mainz, 12 to 16 June/6 October 2007

This series of events, organised jointly by the Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, the Roman-Germanic Central Museum and the Institute of European History, features, among other things, a "Night of the Profs", during which scientists from different fields will explain what they find fascinating about the humanities, as well as an academic excursion to the Liebfrauenkirche in Oberwesel am Rhein and an archeological field trip for schools.

THE POWER OF LANGUAGE

Berlin, 14 to 16 June 2007

At the Academy of Arts in Berlin, the Goethe Institute will be focusing on the role and significance of language in a globalised world. A series of presentations, panel discussions, symposia and performances will be held on the following topics: "multilingualism and identity", "changes in language and language policy" and "science is multilingual".

THE EMERGENCE OF THE POLITICAL IN THE ANCIENT ORIENT

Berlin, 20 June 2007

Politics first emerged in the geographical area of Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Anatolia and Mesopotamia, a region which is currently the scene of the most

extreme conflicts in world politics. This event, organised by Berlin's state museums, the Foundation of Prussian Cultural Heritage and the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities, and which will be held at the Pergamon Museum in the room housing the Altar, aims to contribute towards a better understanding of the different peoples and cultures living in the Islamic world today.

ORDER. A NEVER-ENDING STORY

Marbach, 21 June to 28 October 2007

In this exhibition, the German literature archive in Marbach uses the phenomenon of order to focus on the development of scientific reflection and artistic production. The literature archive will be reordered, freeing it from an order based on the principle of author and name, and thus reconstructing the greater and lesser fancies of the poets and scholars. The aim is to make order an aesthetic and cognitive action – namely an act of creation – and thus tangible.

PHILOSOPHISCHER FAKULTÄTENTAG

Berlin, 5 to 7 July 2007

The humanities speak many different "languages" and deal with many different subjects, from papyrology to Caucasian studies. The capacity of the humanities to impart knowledge



will be the topic of the main event of the Philosophischer Fakultätentag (Faculties of Philosophy Conference), which will bring together representatives from all faculties in Germany and interested members of the general public.

DEUTSCHER GERMANISTENTAG "NATURE – CULTURE"

Marburg, 23 to 26 September 2007

The Deutsche Germanistentag (German Studies Conference) 2007 will be investigating the universality and diversity of language, literature and education, and looking at fundamental anthropological questions concerning the relationship between nature and culture. Linguists and literary scholars, specialised teachers and German teachers from Germany and abroad will debate on subject areas such as culture and body, memory and cultural change, and education and knowledge.

THE READABILITY OF THE WORLD

Berlin, September to November 2007

In a series of events, the Free University of Berlin will explore the continents of the mind and the humanities which communicate, interpret and invent the world. Under the motto "The readability of the world", the messages conveyed by



the cultures will be investigated through music and drama performances, exhibitions, readings and lectures.

THE HUMANITIES AND HOW THEY CREATE CULTURE

Berlin, September/October 2007

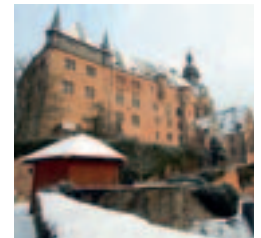
What would become of concert halls if there was no study of music, what of theatres if there was no study of literature? These and other similar questions on the importance of the humanities for creating, discovering and conveying knowledge about cultural treasures will be explored by the German Culture Council together with creators of culture, cultural policy-makers and scholars of the humanities at a congress featuring debates, presentations and performances.

MUNICH SCIENCE DAYS

October 2007

The theme of the Munich Science Days in the Science Year 2007 is "Life and culture. From biological to cultural evolution". In a series of events, this science festival will show the importance of the development of cultural skills and tools (in particular language and writing) with regard to the early phase of cultural evolution. Highlights include a Night of Science, films, guided tours and theatre productions.

For further information on these and other events, visit www.abc-der-menschheit.de



Competitions

EXCITING HUMANITIES

A competition for universities

The university competition entitled "Exciting Humanities" revolves around the entire spectrum of humanities subjects and fields of research. The humanities define and formulate questions and insights that we all share. They have an impact on our lives and on the culture in which we live. A number of ingenious and unexpected projects will highlight the importance of the humanities and demonstrate their achievements to the public.

All higher education institutions in Germany are eligible to take part. Fifteen concepts will be awarded up to €15,000 each to be used for implementation of the project.

WHAT DO YOU SPEAK?

A competition for schools

What exactly is language? How does it influence our lives? What forms can it take? These and many other questions can provide the basis for exploring language in this competition for schools. All ideas are welcome – exhibitions, films, projects, plays, photography, sculptures. Creativity knows no limits! Priority will be given to projects carried out jointly with institutions of art, culture, business and science. One hundred project concepts will be awarded a sum of €2,000 each.



U20 POETRY SLAM

Anyone under 20 is welcome to recite his or her own text on stage to an audience, either solo or in a group. Language from different genres is allowed and the text can be in the form of a comedy, a story or a rap text. Experienced performance poets will assist the young contenders in workshops in over 80 German cities, giving them writing tips and training them to recite. The final round will take place on 6 October 2007, when the U20 German-language "grandmaster" will be nominated.

THE BEST ABC IN THE WORLD

Wanted: your favourite word

The Year of the Humanities and KULTURAUUSTAUSCH magazine are hosting an international competition: "The best ABC in the world". Participants from all corners of the globe will be invited to write a short text on their favourite word from their native language. Noun, verb or adjective, everyone has a word they love – maybe because it sounds beautiful, or sounds exactly like what it means, or is quite simply quaint.

For further information on these and other events, visit www.abc-der-menschheit.de

Partners in the Year of the Humanities

The Science Years are a joint initiative shared by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Science in Dialogue initiative



THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research has been organising Science Years since the year 2000, with the aim of making science accessible to all, increasing the general public's interest in research and encouraging young people to join in scientific activities. Until this year, the natural sciences have been the focus of the Science Years. 2007 marks the first year centring on subjects, topics and methods in the humanities.

www.bmbf.de

The following institutions are helping to coordinate the Year of the Humanities and are directly involved in the preparation and implementation of the entire programme.

DEUTSCHE FORSCHUNGSGEMEINSCHAFT

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) – German Research Foundation – is the science community's central autonomous institution that promotes research at German higher education institutions and publicly funded research institutions. Many of the institutions supported by the DFG will play an active role in the Year of the Humanities.

www.dfg.de

Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft
DFG



WISSENSCHAFT IM DIALOG

The Wissenschaft im Dialog (Science in Dialogue) initiative, which was founded in 1999 by leading German science and research organisations and the Association of Donors for the Promotion of the Sciences and Humanities, with the support of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, promotes a dialogue between the science community and the general public. Its key activities include the Summer of Science – a large-scale science festival, to be held this year in Essen – and the MS Wissenschaft exhibition ship.

www.wissenschaft-im-dialog.de

GERMAN RECTORS' CONFERENCE

The German Rectors' Conference (HRK) is the voluntary association of state and state-recognised universities and other higher education institutions in Germany. HRK will be instrumental in mobilising the humanities institutes during the Year of the Humanities.

www.hrk.de

HRK Hochschulrektorenkonferenz
Die Stimme der Hochschulen

KUNST- UND AUSSTELLUNGSHALLE DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND

The Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle art museum in Bonn (KAH) shows the public intellectual and cultural developments at home and abroad and promotes the dialogue between major figures from the art, culture, intel-

**KUNST- UND AUSSTELLUNGSHALLE
DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND**



lectual and political spheres. One of KAH's contributions to the Science Year 2007 will be a Japanese cultural event on the language of rites.
www.kah-bonn.de

LEIBNIZ SOCIETY

The Leibniz Society is an association of 84 research institutes and service institutions, 14 of which are humanities institutes. The Leibniz Society is playing a major role in the Science Year 2007 – for example, the Germanisches Nationalmuseum in Nuremberg is organising a "Long Night of Science" in the summer.

www.wgl.de



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

MAX PLANCK SOCIETY

The Max Planck Society includes seven institutes that can be considered humanities institutes in the strictest sense of the word. In the Year of the Humanities, the Max Planck Institute for Human Development is one of the partners behind the schools competition "What do you speak?".

www.mpg.de



PHILOSOPHISCHER FAKULTÄTENTAG

The Philosophischer Fakultätentag (PhFT) – Faculties of Philosophy Conference – represents the humanities, social sciences and cultural studies at German universities in higher education policy matters. In the Year of the Humanities, PhFT will take a look at the humanities' capacity for imparting

knowledge at its main event in Berlin from 5 to 7 July 2007.
www.philosophischerfakultaetentag.de

ASSOCIATION OF DONORS FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

The Association of Donors for the Promotion of the Sciences and Humanities is an association of approximately 4,000 companies, associations and private individuals whose aim is to advance science, research and education and training. This includes promoting the dialogue between science and society, which is receiving particular support through the PUSH initiative. In 2006, the Association launched the PUSH (Public Understanding of Science and the Humanities) action programme. A total of nine events will receive funding.

www.stifterverband.de

UNION OF THE GERMAN ACADEMIES

The Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities is the umbrella organisation for seven science academies. In June, the Union will be organising a symposium in Berlin on the "Emergence of the political"; in addition the academies will be staging their own events



UNION DER DEUTSCHEN AKADEMIEEN DER WISSENSCHAFTEN



during the Year of the Humanities.
www.akademienunion.de

VOLKSWAGEN FOUNDATION

Since 1962, the Volkswagen Foundation has been supporting research projects from all disciplines and helping to establish forward-looking fields of knowledge. With its programme entitled "Key issues of the humanities", the Volkswagen Foundation supports the scientific capacity of the humanities and its interdisciplinary and international orientation.

www.volkswagen-stiftung.de



GERMAN SCIENCE COUNCIL

The German Science Council advises the Federal and Länder governments on the development of the programmes and structure of higher education institutions, of science and of research, as well as on building higher education institutions. In January 2006, the German Science Council issued recommendations on the development and advancement of the humanities in Germany, and thus initiated a broad debate about the state of the humanities in Germany.

www.wissenschaftsrat.de

Becoming a partner

Why don't you join in the Year of the Humanities? You could take part in the Science Year 2007 by organising your own events and activities. Demonstrate the diversity and accomplishments of the humanities in an informative and entertaining way. Whatever your idea – science festivals, open days, seminars, exhibitions, lectures or readings – we support any event that helps make the humanities come alive to the general public.

As a partner in the Year of the Humanities, you are entitled to a wide range of services:

- Partners' activities will be included in public relations work of the Year of the Humanities.
- Press relations support. This includes using the nationwide press distribution list, support in approaching the media, etc.
- Presentation of partner activities on the Internet.
- Description of partner activities in the Annual Programme brochure.
- Provision of a logo, background texts and pictures.
- All partners receive a regular newsletter.

For further information on offers, press and services, visit
www.abc-der-menschheit.de



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An aerial photograph of a modern architectural complex. The main building is a large, dark grey structure with multiple levels of green roofs. It features several courtyards with trees and walkways. The surrounding area includes older buildings with red roofs, a parking lot with several cars, and more greenery. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

ukunft

Future.

What would tomorrow be without yesterday?



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research

wissenschaft  im dialog

Science Year 2007

Humanities.

ABC^{of} Humankind