Funding line 1: Cultural Heritage and History

The material and immaterial heritage of past and present societies is both the starting point and the subject of fundamental research performed by the majority of the humanities and social sciences. Over and beyond this, the findings of fundamental research done by information science and the natural sciences are enlisted for the analysis, conservation, documentation and presentation of these cultural bequests. At the same time, the narratives of the humanities and social sciences, which locate the cultural heritage in its historical network of uses and interpretations, demonstrate that research into cultural heritage is indivisible from the scientific investigation of past lifeworlds within the framework of the historical sciences.

The importance to science of the term "cultural heritage", which currently has largely a cultural-political flavour, lies in three main areas:

1. The term "cultural heritage" underlines the social relevance and transfer potential that multi- and interdisciplinary pure research into cultural legacies has for the non-scientific sector.

2. In this way the term "cultural heritage" also points to the necessity of placing research into cultural heritage on a firm theoretical and methodological footing, particularly as regard to the systematic relationships between cultural heritage research and historical disciplines.

3. As a multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary research segment *par excellence,* cultural heritage research offers outstanding points of departure for scientific co-operations with institutes outside of the university (such as museums, libraries, archives) and across the borders of normal fields of scientific inquiry.

Consequently the "Cultural Heritage" funding line aims at primarily multi- or interdisciplinary projects for basic research into cultural legacies from past and present societies, as well as for using the findings from single discipline and interdisciplinary basic research in the analysis, documentation, interpretation, custodianship, museum presentation and a living presentification of this cultural heritage.

In addition, research projects may be promoted that examine the theoretical bases, history and contents of the concept of cultural heritage and the ways in which it is used – in the light for instance of recent theories that have been forwarded (e.g. transculturality, material culture theory, praxeology), and that moreover help clarify the conceptual and methodical tools employed by cultural heritage research.

CULTURAL DYNAMICS IN GLOBALISED WORLDS (FoF 3)
Research Council – Second announcement of funding lines- September 2013

UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

Funding line 2: Language, Cognition, Culture

Language is the central medium for intellectual reflection on the environment, the medium for cultural development, design and representation, and also the medium for scientific and academic work. As such, language is generally the prerequisite, but not the subject itself of systematic observation. Just how language fulfils these functions – on the personal level as the format for representing knowledge and as a means of communication, on the social level as a system for conveying social values and interpretations of the world – is the subject of several sub-disciplines with linguistic foci. Viewed from the standpoint of the individual, they look at questions about the connections between cognitive and linguistic processes, and from the social angle at the interactions between social factors and linguistic form and usage. They take language itself as their subject in its respective concrete form as a specific individual language. The concern here is with the structural features of languages and their comparison, with the aim of discovering and explaining the bounds of and reasons for variation on all levels of the linguistic system. Research into this broad area is distinguished by empirical methods. Depending on what questions are tackled, different methods are required: Qualitative analyses of individual data, quantitative corpus-based methods, and also experimental methods based on hypotheses.

A number of sub-disciplines are involved in exploring language as part of the FoF3. Classification on the basis of individual languages is to be superseded in light of the four focal themes, which simultaneously constitute guiding topics for project applications:

Language – Languages

- Grammatical structures in European/typological and diachronous comparison
- Employment of information technology (as knowledge store, as research object regarding the representation of linguistic forms)

Language in the social and cultural context

- The social function of language
- Language as an expression of cultural development and culturally specific patterns of action
- Language as a medium of cultural exchange
- Sociolinguistics of linguistic variation
- Language in context, from synchronous and diachronous perspectives
- Multilingualism

Language and Cognition

- Linguistic structure and the organization of knowledge from the comparative perspective
- Language acquisition
- Language in its involvement in complex cognitive processes
- Processing on the microscopic level from the comparative perspective

Interdisciplinary connections to disciplines involved in cultural studies on the one hand, and behavioural/scientific subjects on the other are imperative for tackling individual areas. As part of the FoF3, interdisciplinary studies of this kind that focus on specific topics should be placed in a larger context.

CULTURAL DYNAMICS IN GLOBALISED WORLDS (FoF 3)
Research Council – Second announcement of funding lines- September 2013

UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

Funding line 3: Text Worlds

Editing, annotating, translating and interpreting written transmissions form the material backbone of every task performed by philology and cultural studies, and communicate with one other in many different ways. At the same time, these fields of activity allow us to cross the boundaries of the disciplines and faculties to philosophy, theology, sociology and jurisprudence, as well as to information science and the natural sciences. The key concepts that are constantly used in the philologists' daily work (text, version, variants, 'passage', commentary, interpretation, document, testimonial, written/oral transmission etc.) are so universal that they do not stop at issues relating to single regions or epochs. Which means we have here an excellent starting point that not only allows current projects to be better combined with others in practical terms: on the theoretical level, in the question of devising a range of concepts and a methodology spanning the disciplines, there is a potential here which until now has only been tapped in a cursory way.

The current activities already involved in the scientific documentation and analysis of written matter at Heidelberg University are the ideal requirement for establishing research projects geared above all to theory and methodology. *The common focus of these still to be established research ventures is the question of how written sources can be suitably documented with precisely honed concepts, scientifically documented and analysed, and then conveyed to the contemporary world*.

The often bemoaned phenomenon of tunnel vision that is unwittingly encouraged by the boundaries between academic subjects is to be countered by project initiatives aimed specifically at promoting an ongoing exchange between the various disciplines, and place this in a dialogue that embraces them all.

The main thrust of the research collaborations that are to be promoted will initially be directed to basic research in the humanities. These will simultaneously enlarge the basis for further work in the fields of philology and cultural studies, and should be seen as an expression of what essentially is a source-based approach that makes the transmitted materials amenable to a both academic and broader readership. These goals will be augmented by enlisting basic research in information science and the natural sciences in the areas of documentation, analysis and representation of the evidence.

Generally speaking, the chance should be taken to do real justice – also on a global level - to the cultural heritage that is in the care and keeping of the University of Heidelberg. The results of this critical examination and representation of the sources and their history will ultimately lead not only to the establishment of canons, but also to an operating knowledge of life worlds.

Funding line 4: Transcultural Studies

The culture of the humanities and social sciences is strongly coloured by methodological nationalism (e.g. German literature) and Eurocentric grand narratives (e.g. modernisation). The field of Transcultural Studies regards such basic positions as inadequate for capturing current and historical phenomena in all their multiple relationships. Cultures should be spared every kind of essentialism and no longer defined by ethnically demarcated, linguistically homogeneous, religiously uniform, politically continuous or territorially bounded spaces. Instead, cultural phenomena are thought of as ever-new constellations that arise through transformations and entanglements, articulations, negotiations and minglings, extended contacts and far-reaching relationships.

This funding line thus aims - without any temporal or spatial limitations -

1. at topics, on the one hand, that transcend the categories of culture or nation which customarily are thought of as boundaries. These are not conceived of in the familiar framework of interculturality or internationality, which is to say additively as the relationship between clearly definable, self-contained entities. Transcultural Studies looks rather at the changing entanglements, translations, appropriations and rejections that do not presume the collective identities of their bearers but first constitute them. Particular interest is directed therefore to the practices and experiences of, for instance, cosmopolites, traders or migrants, as well as to the historical underpinnings of these processes, such as in colonialism or the globalisation of science;

2. at forming on a methodological level, on the other hand, an heuristics that does not reduce its subject matter to predesignated categories of discipline, nationality and culture, but wishes instead to capture their diversity. The aim here is not to seek a way out of the customary time-tested categories of description by means of meta-languages. Rather, the awareness of researchers must be alerted to their own contingency and blind spots. Questions, concepts and terminologies must be tested to see how far they convey tacit assumptions and experiences, which may then be broadened and rent asunder by transcultural perspectives.

Also eligible for support are projects that examine concepts and articulations of "culture", "nation", "religion" etc. in the aforementioned manner, and with that investigate the genealogies of these forms of knowledge or their ongoing transformations, not least while observing how researchers take part in these processes.

CULTURAL DYNAMICS IN GLOBALISED WORLDS (FoF 3)
Research Council – Second announcement of funding lines- September 2013

UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

Funding line 5: Core Facilities

Access to sophisticated technology and research instruments is playing an increasingly large part in the humanities. And frequently the shared employment of resources ensures they are used effectively and provide an intelligent scientific service. Combined with suitable utilisation and management concepts, the establishment of these core facilities can contribute to an overall improvement in research infrastructures.

The funding line "Core Facilities" in Field of Focus 3 picks up on this recent development in the humanities and aims at the middle-term establishment of core facilities for the humanities at the University of Heidelberg, and joint usage and if possible also external usage of the technologies available or on offer there.

Funding can be given for the acquisition or development of technically sophisticated research tools that are not as yet available at the University of Heidelberg – as for instance in the field of information science and the natural sciences – which have a special potential for use across disciplines and for improving the research structure for the humanities. Conceivable here are projects in the areas of archaeometry or the "digital humanities" (e.g. developing computer aided analysis tools for textual and visual sources, computer philology, text mining, long-term archiving, digital editions, modelling).

Funds for academic events may also be applied for, as well as for start-up projects geared to producing demand analyses, developmental strategies and utilisation concepts in the area of core facilities for the humanities in Field of Focus 3.

No backing can be given on the other hand to customary measures for research infrastructures with very small circles of users, or for the purposes of digital collection (e. g. acquisition of scientific literature, conservation work, pure digitization projects).

CULTURAL DYNAMICS IN GLOBALISED WORLDS (FoF 3)
Research Council – Second announcement of funding lines- September 2013

UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386