

2023 CALLIOPE PRIZE

FOR PRACTICAL MIGRATION RESEARCH
THE GERMAN EMIGRATION CENTER FOUNDATION BREMERHAVEN

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CALLIOPE

Calliope is the oldest and wisest of the nine Muses. She was chosen as the namesake for the prize because she brings museums into association with research, wisdom and beauty: The word museum is derived from the ancient Greek word for „seat of the Muses“. The name Calliope also means the beautiful-voiced. She is also regarded as the muse of science and philosophy.

Calliope: Detail from a pictorial broadsheet. Cesare Ripa, Paris, 1677.



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THE GERMAN EMIGRATION CENTER

The opening of the German Emigration Center in Bremerhaven in 2005 laid the foundations for the first migration museum in Germany. The museum is set in an authentic location: Between 1830 and 1974, more than 7.2 million emigrants left Bremerhaven for overseas. This made Bremerhaven at times the largest emigration port in Europe.

The museum's permanent exhibition tells the story of German and Eastern European emigration from 1683 to the present day to destinations like North and South America and Australia. In the 18 years of its existence, the German Emigration Center has undergone significant structural and content-related developments: in 2012, the first extension was built dedicated to 300 years of immigration history to Germany – from the Huguenots to seasonal, contract and guest workers to (civil) war refugees and displaced persons.

The opening of another new building in June 2021, funded by the federal government, the state and the city, has made it possible to address this important social issue on an even larger and more comprehensive scale, with a focus on community life in an immigration society. Today, the museum also houses an exhibition on the history of ideas in the *Saal der Debatten (Debate Chamber)*, which presents four themes of conflict in the Federal Republic of Germany as a destination country for immigrants since 1949 from multiple perspectives.

The Academy of Comparative Migration Studies (ACOMIS), which celebrated its opening in 2021 at the same time as the new building, is a non-university research and educational institute specialising in comparative migration studies. ACOMIS focuses on areas that address the history of daily life, emotions and biography. ACOMIS sees itself as a forum for research, discourse, mediation and the promotion of democracy. Current social debates and developments influence the scientific work, the results of which are channelled into special exhibitions and publications.

More than 3 million people have visited the German Emigration Center, which was named the European Museum of the Year in 2007. The Center is the most visited museum in the federal state of Bremen and is one of the 3.4 per cent most visited museums in the Federal Republic of Germany.

- 1 Farewell scene in the exhibition room *An der Kaje (On the Quay)*. Photo: Klaus Frahm
- 2 The exhibition room *Transit* serves as a bridge between the immigration and emigration wings of the museum.
- 3 View of the *Salon der Biographien II (Salon of Biographies II)*: Personal artefacts with an immigration history.
- 4 View of the harbour from the *Academy of Comparative Migration Studies (ACOMIS)*.

Photos 2–4: Werner Huthmacher

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The German Emigration Center Foundation was established in January 2006 by representatives of Bremerhaven's business community, the City of Bremerhaven and the museum's management company to promote research and exhibition projects at the German Emigration Center and to establish the museum on an international level.

The Foundation supports the German Emigration Centre in the development and scholarly treatment of its collection, the publication of research findings, the expansion of the library, the development of the content of the extensive educational programme for children, young people and adults, as well as the organisation of research trips and exhibition projects.

As part of the celebrations for the tenth anniversary of the Migration Museum, the German Emigration Center Foundation and the German Emigration Center jointly awarded the *Calliope Prize for Practical Migration Research* for the first time on August 7, 2015.

- 1 The Foundation financed the publication of the dissertation "From additional cargo to courted customer. The conditions of passage for travellers and their border experiences between 1830 and 1932" by Tanja Fittkau, research assistant at the German Emigration Center / © edition DAH 2020
- 2 In April 2023, the Foundation organised an exhibition of selected collection objects and current research and exhibition projects at the "Representation of the Federal State of Bremen in Berlin" as part of the event *Polyphonie – Migrationsgeschichte erzählen* (Recounting the history of polyphonic migration) / © Landesvertretung Bremen; Photo: Daniel Wolff
- 3 In July 2006, the German Emigration Center Foundation acquired Felix Schlesinger's oil painting, "In the passport office and police station before emigration", from 1859 with a donation from the *Association of Bremerhaven Companies – Initiative Group* / © Stiftung Deutsches Auswandererhaus; Photo: DAH

The German Emigration Center Foundation and German Emigration Center award the *Calliope Prize for Practical Migration Research* every two years. It is endowed with a total of € 20,000.

The 2023 *Calliope Prize for Practical Migration Research* will be awarded for two achievements that build on each other:

1 Essay

Essay The *Calliope Prize* is awarded to an academic, a faculty or a department from a (non-)university research institution for an essay of up to ten pages on the question: **“Provide orientation, remain critical – reasons for arguing based on migration history and how to do it?”** The essay will be awarded € 5,000, which the winner can use at their own discretion. The essay forms the theoretical basis for the collaborative project with the German Emigration Center.

2 Collaborative Project

The Foundation and German Emigration Center will fund a joint project with a prize money of € 15,000, the idea for which will be developed by the prizewinner and realised jointly with the German Emigration Centre in the form of an exhibition or publication by 2025. This part of the prize money will be used to cover the costs spent on the project.

This year's collaborative project for the *Calliope Prize* will include the essay question above and will involve the museum's permanent exhibition, in particular the Critical Thinking Stations.

The Critical Thinking Stations (CTS) are digital thinking spaces in the form of five interactive stations located throughout the museum's permanent exhibition. Visitors use touch screens and projection surfaces to explore their personal point of view on controversial questions concerning migration and migration history. These theme of the questions relate to the contents of each exhibition room. Each station asks three to four questions, most of which are Likert questions or multiple choice. Visitors should be able to answer them relatively quickly, using their existing knowledge or opinions and the information available in the exhibition. Answering the questions posed by the CTS allows visitors to actively participate in their tour of the exhibition.

RFID technology is used to store the anonymous responses by all visitors, which are then processed and displayed on a large video screen at the end of the tour. Seating in front of the screen invites people to sit and discuss their own responses and the perspectives of others with their companions or other visitors. The video screen is flanked by the Deep Dive stations, which offer in-depth knowledge on touch screens, allowing visitors to alter their responses and actively experience the manner in which they form their personal opinions. An educational museum workshop based on the CTS has been developed to support personal exchange and is available to both school and adult groups.

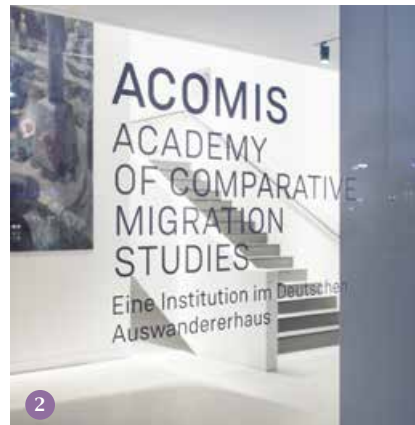


When a dispute arises between actual interests or rights about their future recognition or guarantee, the parties involved like to resort to arguments that make reference to the past. The political claim that history should not repeat itself presupposes that lessons can be learned from past mistakes and failures, misconceptions and aberrations, just as much as it presupposes that history can repeat itself at all. Yet this has been contested since time immemorial. Nothing repeats itself in history for Heraclitus wrote, *ποταμῷ γὰρ οὐκ ἔστιν ἐμβῆναι δις τῷ αὐτῷ*, (No one can step into the same river twice). Consequently, at every point in the historical stream we would find ourselves in a unique position, lacking advice and unteachable, facing an incomparable past and an unpredictable future.

In our day-to-day lives, a regular glance at the daily newspaper is usually enough to confirm our sense of déjà vu. Historical studies always reveal themselves to be „critical“ in the face of this often hasty view: they teach us to distinguish between what at first glance appears to be the same. What they undermine at the same time, however, is our social need for and the social practice of orientation through history. Having both – criticism and orientation – at the same time appears to be impossible.

It goes without saying that almost every pro- or anti-government statement on current migration policy looks back at history to predict the future: When a new immigration law is passed to increase the number of skilled workers, the recruitment period of the 1950s to 1970s is recalled. When it comes to integrating certain groups with shared origins or destinies, the focus shifts either to refugees and displaced persons following the Second World War or to the Huguenots of the late 17th century. But what theoretical epistemological value and what practical consequences does reasoning by looking back at (migration) history have? What does it allow us to see out of or into, what does it blur, what does it leave unseen or in the dark? And is there a way of relating (migration) history and (migration) politics that is both critical and orienting? And what role should an institution like the Museum of Cultural History play in this regard?

- 1 Emigrants' letters from the German Emigration Center collection. Photo: DAH
- 2 A view inside the *Academy of Comparative Migration Studies (ACOMIS)*. Photo: Werner Huthmacher
- 3 View of an installation inside the *Forum Migration*. Photo: DAH



PRIZE MONEY

The prize money is € 20,000.

The prize money was donated by the Ditzen-Blanke publishing family, long-standing patrons and generous supporters of the German Emigration Center.

MODALITIES OF ENTERING

The final entry date is September 22, 2023.

Entries should be sent in German or English to:

- › Entries by email: kalliope@dah-bremerhaven.de
- › Entries by post (the date of the postmark is decisive):
- › German Emigration Center Foundation
CALLIOPE PRIZE
Columbusstraße 65
D-27568 Bremerhaven

2023 JUDGES

A panel of five judges decides on the winner of the *Calliope Prize*.

The panel of judges consists of two members of the German Emigration Center Foundation and three external members. The external judges consist of representatives from university and cultural institutions.

Who can enter?

- › Scientists who are or have been employed at a university or non-university research institution in Europe are eligible to enter

What should your entry contain?

- › An **essay of up to ten pages** (12 pt font) on the question: “**Provide orientation, remain critical – reasons for arguing based on migration history and how to do it?**”
- › An **outline idea** (max. two pages) for a collaborative project with the German Emigration Center
- › Your CV

Anyone interested in submitting an entry can visit the permanent exhibition free of charge until **September 21, 2023**, using the keyword “Kalliope”.

› *When is the prize awarded?*

The award ceremony will take place on **December 9, 2023** at the German Emigration Center. It is compulsory for the winner to attend the award ceremony.

2019 PANEL OF JUDGES

Christian Sievers

ZDF journalist and presenter of the *heute* programme

Prof. Klaus Vogel

Chairman of the Board of the German Hygiene Museum, Dresden

State Councillor Jörg Schulz

Chairman of the Board of the German Emigration Center Foundation, Bremerhaven

Matthias Ditzen-Blanke

Chair of the Board of Trustees of the German Emigration Center Foundation, Bremerhaven

Dr. Simone Blaschka

Director of the German Emigration Center, Bremerhaven

THE 2019 PRIZE WINNER

Prof. Dr. Peter Frankopan

Professor of Global History at Oxford University and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Director of the Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research

Oxford Professor and best-selling author Prof. Dr Peter Frankopan was recognised for his research on global history through his work *The Silk Roads: A New History of the World*. His work opens up new perspectives on world events and explores global contexts from a non-Eurocentric point of view. His prize-winning collaborative project addresses the topic of language: With the help of a catalogue of questions developed by Prof. Dr. Frankopan, a study is being conducted in collaboration with the German Emigration Center to investigate the connection between multilingualism and acculturation in the country of immigration. The study will examine the impact of acquiring and using multiple languages on respondents' attitudes towards mobility. The findings are intended to provide a multi-perspective view of language and migration and to provide guidance on which other languages could be included in the school curriculum.

THE 2017 PRIZE WINNER

Prof. Dr. Christoph A. Rass

Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies at the University of Osnabruck

The 2017 *Calliope Prize* was awarded to Prof. Dr Christoph A. Rass for a workshop format he developed that looks at family history as migration history. The project supports learning that the experience of family migration is shared by the majority in Germany and that it unites – rather than divides – society.

“The participants in the workshop rediscover their own family history. In this way, Professor Rass's project succeeds in *eliminating a division between us, the established, and the others, the migrants,*” the panel of judges said in its statement.

THE 2015 PRIZE WINNER

Prof. Dr. Markus Tiedemann

Institute of Comparative Ethics at the Free University of Berlin

Prof. Dr Markus Tiedemann has made an outstanding contribution to intercultural understanding in schools in both theory and practice. The project, which was awarded the *Calliope Prize* in 2015, focuses on training philosophical judgement and seeks, among other things, to address the *dilemma of value mediation* in the intercultural society of the 21st century.

Markus Tiedemann and his team of researchers have developed concrete support “for teachers, educators and citizens in conflict”: the publication “Our daughter doesn't take swimming lessons!” takes up the cases of 50 religious-cultural clashes that teachers and administrative staff at different types of schools are confronted with.



**DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS
ABOUT YOUR ENTRY?**

Marina Curcic-Sarac

Tel. + 49 / (0)471 / 90 22 0 – 265

E-Mail: kalliope@dah-bremerhaven.de

www.dah-bremerhaven.de/kalliope-preis

CALLIOPE PRIZE

2023 CALL FOR ENTRIES

FINAL ENTRY DATE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

STIFTUNG DEUTSCHES AUSWANDERERHAUS

Columbusstraße 65, D – 27568 Bremerhaven

Tel. + 49 / (0)471 / 90 22 0 – 265, E-Mail: info@stiftung-dah.org

www.dah-bremerhaven.de/stiftung

DEUTSCHES AUSWANDERERHAUS

gemeinnützige GmbH, Columbusstraße 65, D – 27568 Bremerhaven

Tel. + 49 / (0)471 / 90 22 0 – 0, E-Mail: info@dah-bremerhaven.de

www.dah-bremerhaven.de