

## Germany

The Arbeitskreis historische Frauen- und Geschlechterforschung e.V. (Association for Historical Women's and Gender Studies) has been promoting research on women's and gender history for many years and aims to anchor them permanently in the academic and cultural landscape of the Federal Republic, both inside and outside of academia, and to intensify the intellectual exchange between all those working on women's and gender history. The AKHFG maintains a website. Members of the association receive a monthly newsletter containing information about the association's activities, conferences and workshops, calls for papers, new publications and reviews.

### Dissertation prize

Every year, the Arbeitskreis awards a prize for the best dissertation in the field of gender history that is still unpublished at the time of application. The winners of recent years are:

2021 Eva-Marie Lehner, Taufe, Ehe, Tod – Verzeichnungspraktiken in frühneuzeitlichen Kirchenbüchern aus süddeutschen Gemeinden [Baptism, Marriage, Death - Registration Practices in Early Modern Church Records from Southern German Parishes] <https://akhfg.de/dissertationspreis/preistraegerin-2021/>. The book has meanwhile been published with Wallstein Verlag. <https://www.wallstein-verlag.de/9783835353800-taufe-ehe-tod.html>

2022 Eva-Maria Cersovsky, Geschlechterverhältnisse in der Krankenfürsorge. Straßburg im 15. und 16. Jahrhundert [Gender relations in the care for the sick. Strasbourg in the 17th and 16th century] <https://akhfg.de/dissertationspreis/preistraegerin-2022/>. The book has meanwhile been published with Thorbecke Verlag. <https://shop.verlagsgruppe-patmos.de/geschlechterverhaeltnisse-in-der-krankenfursorge-404390.html>

2023 Katharina Seibert, "Who cares? Negotiating Society and Gender at Spain's Sickbeds during the 1930s and 1940s" <https://akhfg.de/dissertationspreis/preistraegerin-2023/>

The next call for applications will take place in spring 2024.

### Conferences and Workshops

The Arbeitskreis supports workshops and conferences mostly organised by its regional committees. The Arbeitskreis also holds an annual meeting. Colleagues experiment with different formats (online, hybrid, in person).

Regional meeting (Region Ost), 1. 3. 2024 „Oral History in der Geschlechterforschung. Methoden, Chancen und Herausforderungen“ [Oral History and gender studies: Methods, Chances, Challenges], <https://akhfg.de/region-ost-call-for-papers-regionaltreffen-maerz-2024/>

Regional meeting (Region Süd), 8. 12. 2023, „History of (Anti-)Feminism“ <https://akhfg.de/region-sued-regionaltreffen-8-dezember-2023/>

Regional meeting (Region Mitte), 17. 11. 2023, Presentation of ongoing research <https://akhfg.de/region-mitte-nachwuchstagung-17-november-2023/>

Regional meeting (Region Nord), 27. 10. 2023, „Abortion in historical perspective: GDR and FRG“ <https://akhfg.de/region-nord-digitales-diskussionsforum-27-oktober-2023/>

Summer School „Feministische Methoden und interdisziplinäre Bildungsforschung“ [Feminist methods and interdisciplinary studies in education], 6.-8. September 2023, Humboldt University Berlin, siehe <https://akhfg.de/summer-school-feministische-methoden-und-interdisziplinaere-bildungsforschung-6-8-september-2023/>

Conference: „Gebären – Geburtshilfe – Mutterschaft in Geschichte und Gegenwart“ [Birth, obstetrics, motherhood in the past and present], Otto-von-Guericke University, Magdeburg, 20./21. April 2023 <https://akhfg.de/tagung-gebaeren-geburtshilfe-mutterschaft-in-geschichte-und-gegenwart-20-21-april-2023/>

Workshop: „Theorie und Praxis der altertumswissenschaftlichen Geschlechterforschung“ [Theory and practice of researching gender in antiquity], Wuppertal University, 16./17. 3. 2023, siehe <https://akhfg.de/forschungswerkstatt-theorie-und-praxis-der-altertumswissenschaftlichen-geschlechterforschung-16-17-maerz-2023/>

Online meeting, AKHFG: Stand der Frauen- und Geschlechtergeschichte [What is Women's and Gender History Now?], 3. 2. 2023 <https://akhfg.de/austausch-ueber-den-stand-der-frauen-und-geschlechtergeschichte-3-februar-2023/>

Regional meeting (Region Süd), 16. 12. 2022, <https://akhfg.de/region-sued-regionaltreffen-16-dezember-2022/>

### **Political interventions**

Although there are many gender historians in Germany, the degree of institutionalisation of gender history is rather low by international comparison. There are only a few professorships that have at least a partial denomination of "gender history". If such professorships become vacant because the post holder retires, cuts are likely. We are particularly concerned about the situation in Jena, where Gisela Mettele will retire in 2025. When the faculty decided to abolish the chair, colleagues and students intervened. The AKHFG wrote an open letter [http://geschlechtergeschichte-retten.de/?page\\_id=89](http://geschlechtergeschichte-retten.de/?page_id=89), and students and post graduates protested and launched a petition. In December 2022, their activities culminated in the occupation of a lecture theatre, which lasted several days and received national attention. Since then, negotiations have been taking place. But due to the dire financial situation of the University, the situation looks rather bleak. For the status of the dispute, see <http://geschlechtergeschichte-retten.de/>

In September 2023, the biennial conference of the Association of German Historians took place. This annual conference has long been held under the title "Historikertag". The AKHFG has been campaigning for years for the conference to be renamed as the title uses the grammatically male form to address historians of all genders. In the run-up to the "Historikertag", members of the AKHFG had submitted a corresponding motion. However, this was not put to the vote at the general meeting against our protest. Instead, the AKHFG will now be involved in a working group tasked with developing more inclusive name proposals for the next conference in 2025, where they will hopefully be put to the vote.

For the first time, the "Historikertag" also addressed the topic of sexualised violence in history faculties. The corresponding session, which could also be visited virtually, reached a very large audience. And in its general meeting, the Association of German Historians passed a resolution condemning sexualised violence within the academy. For further developments, see <https://twitter.com/metoohistoryundMachtmissbrauch> in der Wissenschaft & metoohistory - Folge

8 des H-Soz-Kult-Podcasts, in: H-Soz-Kult, 01.10.2023, <[www.hsozkult.de/webnews/id/webnews-139036](http://www.hsozkult.de/webnews/id/webnews-139036)>.

### Further news

In July 2023, the German Council of Science and Humanities published recommendations for the promotion of gender research in Germany. <https://www.wissenschaftsrat.de/download/2023/1385-23.html>. The detailed report is based on a comprehensive evaluation of interdisciplinary gender research in Germany. Its recommendations are meant to inform political decisions within universities, regional and national governments, funding bodies and scholars in gender studies. The report characterises gender studies as an innovative field of research and recommends the further expansion and structural strengthening of gender studies. The report criticises the lack of international networking and the widespread absence of non-university research institutes specialising in gender. Unfortunately, women's and gender *history* is barely mentioned in the report. However, the importance of archives and libraries is emphasised.

The political and financial consequences of the report for higher education and research are currently unclear, especially as university funding in Germany is largely the responsibility of the federal states. Gender research in Germany, as in other countries, is under massive attack from right-wing groups. For this very reason, the Science Council's report is very encouraging overall. However, it is questionable whether it will lead to an expansion of gender research - including gender history - given the very tight financial situation overall.

Partly in response to the evaluation of gender studies by the German Council of Science and Humanities, a conference on "Geschlechtergeschichte: Herausforderungen und Chancen, Perspektiven und Strategien" [Gender History: Challenges and Opportunities, Perspectives and Strategies] funded by the Volkswagen Foundation was held at the beginning of June 2023. The results of the conference were published in the form of a position paper, which is also available in English and French and includes a detailed bibliography. (see for the German version: <https://pub.uni-bielefeld.de/record/2982911>, for the English version: <https://pub.uni-bielefeld.de/record/2983040>) The paper was discussed at an AKHFG event in October and is also available for discussion on HSozKult: see <http://www.hsozkult.de/debate/id/fddebate-139971>. Comments by international colleagues would be especially welcome.

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