

Abgeschlossene Forschungsprojekte:

Más allá de Cortés y Moctezuma: Reevaluar la conquista de México 500 años después

Principal investigators: [Prof. Dr. Vitus Huber](#) and Prof. em. John F. Schwaller (SUNY Albany)

This collection of essays seeks to shed new light on the so-called “Conquest” or *Conquista* of Mexico. These essays emerged from the scholarly discussions commemorating the quincentenary of the *Conquista* of Mexico. Unique among collections that study the period, the authors represented here come from different disciplines with different strengths as foci of their research. The essays included consider the language used to encapsulate the event in Nahuatl documents from the colonial period, how the Spanish veterans led the transition to settlement in taking land for themselves, and the legacy of the *Conquista* in discrimination against Tlaxcallans in modern Mexico. This is a compelling and unique collection of essays evaluating the elements of the *Conquista* from the perspective of different methodologies written by leading scholars from Europe, Mexico, and the USA. It is comprehensive in scope while focused in topic.

Vitus Huber and John F. Schwaller (eds.), *Beyond Cortés and Montezuma: The Conquest of Mexico Revisited*, Denver: University Press of Colorado, 2024

URL: <https://upcolorado.com/inst-meso-studies/item/6653-beyond-cortes-and-montezuma>

The Bright Side of Night. Nocturnal Activities in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period

Principal investigators: [Prof. Dr. Vitus Huber](#), Prof. Dr. Romedio Schmitz-Esser (Heidelberg University), and Dr. Maria Weber (University of Freiburg i.Br.)

This interdisciplinary volume explores the potential of the night as an enabler of nocturnal activities in medieval and early modern times. Combining diverse methodological approaches and drawing on a wide range of empirical evidence – from early medieval monastic manuscripts, saintly relics, nocturnal prayer, and astronomy to Renaissance artworks, early modern medical ideas and practices about healthy sleep, eighteenth-century lighting technologies, and nocturnal upheavals on Caribbean sugar plantations – the book presents new interpretations of the “bright side of night”. By analyzing the distinctive social, cultural, legal, religious, and medical frameworks of the premodern night, the essays not only bridge scholarly traditions but also move beyond the simplistic master narrative of the dark medieval versus the enlightened early modern night.

(Funded by the SNSF, University of Geneva, Heidelberg University, University of Freiburg i.Br., University of Munich)

Vitus Huber, Romedio Schmitz-Esser and Maria Weber (eds.), *The Bright Side of Night. Nocturnal Activities in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period*, Florence: Sismel Edizione del Galluzzo, 2024, DOI: 10.36167/ML123PDF

URL: <https://www.mirabileweb.it/edgalluzzo/miscellanee/m/1326> (open access)

Selbstoptimierung – transepochal (*Special Issue*)

Principal investigator: [Prof. Dr. Vitus Huber](#)

Das Themenheft beleuchtet das umfassende Repertoire von Selbstoptimierungspraktiken aus historischer Perspektive kritisch. Dies ermöglicht es, herkömmliche – teils teleologische – Annahmen über die Herausbildung moderner Körper- und Subjektivitätsverständnisse sowie über die Geschichte menschlichen Enhancements neu zu bewerten. Das Phänomen der Selbstoptimierung wird dadurch in der Vielfältigkeit seiner Ausprägungen und in seiner historischen Tiefe besser greifbar. Das transepochal ausgerichtete Sonderheft verhandelt das Thema anhand von Fallstudien von der Antike bis zum 20. Jahrhundert.

Vitus Huber (ed.), Selbstoptimierung – transepochal, *Historische Anthropologie* Special Issue 31/3 (2023)

DOI: [10.7788/hian.2023.31.issue-3](https://doi.org/10.7788/hian.2023.31.issue-3) (selected open access)

Patterns in the History of Polycentric Governance in European Cities

Principal investigators: [Prof. tit. Dr. Thomas Lau](#) et al.

The autonomy granted to local communities (towns, municipalities, city-states) by larger, central powers (empires, kings, lords, central states) is a structural and recurrent feature of European history over time, from antiquity to the contemporary period. This volume explores the political, social and cultural aspects of this feature in a diachronic and comparative perspective, from the Roman Empire to today's city partnerships. Tho this end, it uses the concept of polycentric governance.

Cédric Brélaz, Thomas Lau, Hans-Joachim Schmidt and Siegfried Weichlein (eds.), *Patterns in the History of Polycentric Governance in European Cities: From Antiquity to the 21st Century*, München: De Gruyter-Oldenbourg, 2024.

Thomas Lau, Volker Reinhardt, Rüdiger Voigt (eds.): ***Edmund Burke: Vater des Konservatismus?*** Baden-Baden: Nomos 2021

Thomas Lau, Volker Reinhardt, Rüdiger Voigt, (eds.): ***Der Bürger als Souverän: Jean-Jacques Rousseaus Lehre von der volonté générale im Spiegel der Zeit***, Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2018.

Thomas Lau, Helge Wittmann (eds.): ***Reichsstadt im Religionskonflikt***, Petersberg: Imhof, 2017.

Thomas Lau, Volker Reinhardt, Rüdiger Voigt (ed.), ***Der sterbliche Gott: Thomas Hobbes' Lehre von der Allmacht des Leviathan im Spiegel der Zeit***, Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2017.

Thomas Lau, ***Die Kaiserin: Maria Theresia, 1717-1740***, Köln/ Weimar/ Wien 2016.

Thomas Lau, Helge Wittmann (eds.): ***Kaiser, Reich und Reichsstadt in der Interaktion***, Peterberg: Imhof, 2016.

Karsten Igel, Thomas Lau (eds.): ***Stadt im Raum: Vorstellungen – Entwürfe – Gestaltungen***, Köln/ Weimar/ Wien: Böhlau: 2016.

Thomas Lau, ***Unruhige Städte: Das Reich, die Stadt und die Reichsstadt***, München: Oldenbourg, 2012.

Thomas Lau, ***Kleine Geschichte Zürichs***, Regensburg: Friedrich Pustet, 2012./ korrigierte und erweiterte zweite Auflage: 2017.

Thomas Lau, ***Teutschland: Eine Spurensuche (1500-1648)***, Stuttgart: Theiss, 2010.

Thomas Lau, ***Stiefbrüder: Nation und Konfession in der Schweiz und in Europa (1656-1712)***, Köln/ Weimar/ Wien: Böhlau, 2008.

Thomas Lau (ed.), ***Österreichische Familien: Machthaber, Mimen und Magnaten***, Köln/ Weimar/ Wien: Böhlau, 2006.

Thomas Lau, ***Bürgerunruhen und Bürgerprozesse in den Reichsstädten Mühlhausen und Schwäbisch Hall in der Frühen Neuzeit***, Bern: Peter Lang, 1999.

Narrating the Body. New Perspectives on the Connections of Corporeality and Narrativity (c. 1500–1800)

Principal investigator: [Prof. Dr. Vitus Huber](#)

This volume studies the multifaceted connections between the body and the narrative in the early modern world. It examines how bodily aspects shaped the creation of stories and vice versa. The writing, telling, or interpreting of a story is inextricably linked to a corporeal act and, to a variable degree, influenced by that. The other way around, narrativity, understood here as the narrative form, referring to the framing and structuring

factors that define the meaning(s) of a story, may influence the experience, interpretation, and valuation of the body, too. Applying an interdisciplinary approach and uniting case studies from Africa, the Americas, and Europe, this volume takes stock of the body as a heuristic instrument. It goes beyond the dichotomic debate between constructivists and essentialists, by putting it into perspective of the interplay of body and narrative.

(Funded by the SNSF PZ00P1_193398 and the University of Geneva)

Bodies and Narrativity Across the Early Modern World, London/New York, Routledge 2025

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