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German Humanities Institutes Abroad

Max Weber
Foundation
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German Humanities
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The Max Weber Foundation (MWS) is one of the mainstays of German global research in the humanities and social sciences. It runs eleven academically autonomous Institutes around the world as well as Branch Offices. Its Central Office is located in Bonn. The Institutes are situated in Beirut, Istanbul, London, Moscow, New Delhi, Paris, Rome, Tokyo, Warsaw and Washington. They act as crucial bridges between their host countries and Germany. The MWS appoints renowned academics to lead the Institutes on a temporary basis.

Research and academic dialogue

The Institutes help to create networks between academic cultures and provide researchers with manifold opportunities to develop their research questions and conduct their projects in a stimulating international and interdisciplinary environment. They work closely and intensively with local, transnational and global partners and act as intermediaries between academic spheres within and outside Germany. They also offer an excellent insight into Germany's academic landscape. International researchers can often work far more effectively in a specific region than they can in Germany – as long-established non-university forums, the Institutes make this possible. Each Institute's host country provides a distinctive perspective and a unique launchpad for innovative cross-border research. They allow researchers in Germany to access data and source materials in their host regions, opening up new frontiers in international research.

Support and funding

Supporting early career researchers is a top priority for the MWS, and it is one of Germany's leading institutions promoting research in the humanities and social sciences abroad. In addition to temporary positions, the Foundation offers numerous scholarships of varying duration, internships and modes of academic exchange such as master classes, study groups, workshops, conferences and seminars. Every year, hundreds of researchers benefit from unique opportunities at its various locations. Spending time at an MWS Institute enables them to earn qualifications that will set them apart as they forge their careers. They can also gain valuable experience in research/museum management and related fields.

International research infrastructures

It is crucial that the MWS Institutes help to establish excellent conditions for academic work. To achieve this, they foster an intercultural research environment, maintain well-stocked libraries and Rara collections of specialist local, regional and international literature, and help researchers to access local archives. They play a vital role in international networking by organising conferences, workshops, seminars and a range of public events. They publish their research in their own journals and book series, often in collaboration with renowned international publishers and in online format through publishers' open access programmes or via perspectiva.net, the Foundation's own publishing platform. Digital humanities are also integral to its academic activities. The MWS works with international partners to develop new research questions and digital research infrastructures. Academic blogs and social media enable it to reach a broad public audience.

German Center for Art History Paris (1997/2006)

The DFK Paris uses research projects, scholarship programmes and specialist conferences to develop topics from medieval art to contemporary art and makes them available to the public through its publication series. The Institute sees itself as a starting point for innovative and interdisciplinary research on French and German art in a global context.

www.dfk-paris.org

German Historical Institute London (1975)

As the former capital of the British Empire and home to many of its key archives, London is the ideal location for a transnational research centre. The GHI London is extremely popular with historians of all eras working on colonial history and global relations or the history of Great Britain and Ireland. Current research focuses on intellectual history, media history, global history and gender history.

www.ghil.ac.uk

German Historical Institute Moscow (2005/2009)

The GHI Moscow focuses on researching Germany and Russia's shared history, promoting closer collaboration between Russian and German researchers and coordinating joint research and publication projects. After the fall of the "Iron Curtain", long-inaccessible Russian archives were opened up and the Institute became a key point of contact and advice for German historians.

www.dhi-moskau.org

German Historical Institute Washington (1987)

Pacific Office at UC Berkeley

Guided by the principles of Advancing Research, Supporting Scholars and Building Networks, the GHI Washington conducts innovative research on German, European and Jewish history, American and transatlantic history, and global and transnational history since the 18th century. It also offers an extensive scholarship programme. Current research focuses on the history of knowledge, the history of mobility and digital history, while the Pacific Office in Berkeley concentrates on (trans)Pacific history and combining the history of knowledge with the history of migration.

www.ghi-dc.org

German Institute for Japanese Studies Tokyo (1988)

The DIJ Tokyo researches modern Japan in a global context with a focus on society, the economy, politics, culture, and international relations. It is an internationally recognised platform for Japan Studies with a worldwide research network and highly regarded publication series. Currently, its research focuses on digital transformation, the future of local communities in Japan, transregional perspectives on Japan, and methods and methodologies. Since 2017 the DIJ Tokyo has maintained a research group on Japan's multifaceted role in Southeast Asia at the National University of Singapore.

www.dijtokyo.org

Max Weber Forum for South Asian Studies Delhi (2021)

The MWF Delhi was established in 2021. It acts as an intermediary between German and South Asian research in the humanities and social sciences, creating a space for academic debate with and about South Asia. The MWF Delhi is a central point of contact for historical and contemporary research on the interplay between South Asia and the wider world.

mwfdelhi.hypotheses.org

Orient-Institut Beirut (1961)

Branch Office in Cairo

The OI Beirut conducts and promotes research in the humanities and social sciences related to the Arab world and the broader Middle East. Classical historical and philological approaches are combined with disciplines such as social anthropology, political science and sociology. Arabic plays a central role as a language of scholarship. Equal importance is afforded to global localization, the delimitation of processes and phenomena within the region, and collaboration and exchange with institutions and researchers on the ground.

www.orient-institut.org

Orient-Institut Istanbul (2009)

The OI Istanbul works closely with Turkish and international scholars on various fields of research with a regional focus. In addition to the traditional perspectives of Middle Eastern studies, history, and philology, approaches from adjacent fields such as sociology, religious studies, linguistics, and musicology are gaining increasing prominence. The Institute is also involved in academic exchange between Germany and Turkey as well as with neighbouring Iran and South-east Europe.

www.oist.org

China Branch Office (2017)

The MWS set up a Branch Office in recognition of China's academic, cultural and political importance, particularly in terms of research. The European Research Centre for Chinese Studies is located in Beijing and is a joint venture between the MWS and the École française d'Extrême-Orient. The two organisations facilitate contact between Chinese, French and German scholars working in the humanities and social sciences, conduct research, organise events and publish a joint academic book series in Chinese.

erccs.hypotheses.org/

German Historical Institute Paris (1958)

The GHI Paris has three guiding principles (Research — Mediation — Qualification) that inform its work on French, Franco-German and Western European history from late antiquity to the present day. It also focuses on digital historiography and African history and contributes to Franco-German and international academic exchange through its research, events, publication series, library and its journal *Francia*.

www.dhi-paris.fr

German Historical Institute Rome (1888)

Italy, and Rome in particular, enjoy unique academic opportunities. The DHI Rome is an international forum for interdisciplinary research spanning eras from the early Middle Ages to the present day. Research focal points include Italian history, music history and the history of German-Italian relations in their European and global contexts, as well as transregional and transnational contexts and the digital humanities.

www.dhi-roma.it

German Historical Institute Warsaw (1993)

Branch Offices in Prague and Vilnius

The GHI Warsaw conducts innovative research that considers Polish history in its European contexts and the history of German-Polish relations in all their chronological depth and thematic breadth. The Institute also promotes historical scholarly discourse at national and international level.

www.dhi.waw.pl

The Institutes of the MWS — humanities around the World

Central Office

The Central Office was set up in 2002 when the Foundation was established and is responsible for core tasks. It supports the work of the Foundation's various bodies and the Academic Advisory Boards. It deals with German regulatory authorities on behalf of the Institutes and their employees, maintains the publication platform perspectivia.net and is responsible for all Foundation-wide administrative matters and for public relations in Germany.

www.maxweberstiftung.de

