

XX BIENNIAL CONFERENCE
THE GERMAN-POLISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

THÈSE
EUROPEAN DISSERTATION
CULTURES IN MEDICINE

Programme

HEINRICH HEINE UNIVERSITY

Schloß Mickeln, Alt-Himmelgeist 25, 40589

Düsseldorf, Germany

3-5 September 2025

P O L S K O -
N I E M I E C K I E
T O W A R Z Y S T W O
H I S T O R I I
M E D Y C Y N Y



D E U T S C H -
P O L N I S C H E
G E S E L L S C H A F T
F Ü R G E S C H I C H T E
D E R M E D I Z I N

WEDNESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

15:00-17:00 Registration

17:00 Welcome and Introduction (Nils Hansson, Düsseldorf)

Welcome address on behalf of the German-Polish Society for the History of Medicine (Katarzyna Pękacka-Falkowska, Poznań & Fritz Dross, Erlangen)

17:15-18:00 Key-note lecture: Dissertation acknowledgments (Stefan Hartmann, Düsseldorf)

19:00 Dinner

THURSDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

09:00-9:35 Short early career talks on dissertation research (Chair: Alfons Hugger, Düsseldorf)

Dr. med. dent.-dissertations in Germany 1919-1933 (Ellen Schleicher & Maja Koschel, Düsseldorf)

Pioneering dissertations in the Baltic Sea region by female scholars (Lotta Borkhardt, Budapest/Tokio)

Misuse of co-authorships in Dr. med. dissertations in Germany (Laura Klempp, Düsseldorf)

Break

09:50-10:50 Dissertation studies in the Baltic Sea region (Chair: Joanna Nieznanowska, Szczecin)

The „Factory“ of Medical Dissertations in Tartu, a University on the frontier of Languages and Cultures (Erki Tammiksaar & Ken Kalling, Tartu)

Dissertation Culture in 19th-Century European Medicine: The Case of August von Haken at the University of Dorpat (Juris Salaks, Riga)

Dissify: The Cologne-Düsseldorf-Osnabrück digitization project (Miriam Albers, Köln, Thorsten Halling, Düsseldorf, Albert Sawatzky, Köln, Hannah Ruschemeier, Osnabrück, Nils Hansson, Düsseldorf)

Break

11:10-12:10

Dissertations in Nazi Germany (Chair: Katarzyna Pękacka-Falkowska, Poznań)

Medical dissertations in Nazi Germany – changing dissertation cultures? (Maike Rotzoll, Marburg, Volker Roelcke, Gießen)

Methods, topics and the issue of quality. Some observations on medical dissertations from the university of Heidelberg between 1930 and 1948 (Christoph Beckmann, Marburg)

Dissertations in the Reichsuniversität Straßburg: a reflection of student research networks and Nazi influences on medical study (Aisling Shalvey, Halle) (online)

12:10-13:10

Lunch

13:10-14:10

Early modern dissertation studies (Chair: Michaela Clark, Düsseldorf)

Credibility, Merit and Scholarship? A comparative approach to medical and philosophical dissertations at early modern Dutch and German universities (Gerhard Wiesenfeldt, Melbourne)

The Perception of Formal Medical Qualifications as a Factor in Building Patient Trust: A Comparison of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth with Western European Studies (Jakub Węglorz, Wrocław)

Medical disputations and dissertations at Stettin's Marianische Gymnasium, 1647-1760 (Joanna Nieznanowska, Szczecin)

Break

14:25-15:25

Tracing the circulation of knowledge in dissertations (Chair: Juris Salaks, Riga)

Disce, sed a doctis... Frühneuzeitliche Bildungsreisen der Schlesier nach Jena und Halle am Beispiel des Arztes und Dichters Caspar Gottlieb Lindner (Edward Bialek, Wrocław)

The German Roots of Medical Education in Eastern Ukraine (Liubov Zhvanko, Dmytro Kibkalo, Kharkiv State Biotechnology University, Ukraine)

The Influence of the Psychiatry Enquete, reflected in Dissertations and Oral History (Felicitas Söhner, Rostock)

Break

15:40-16:40

Authorship and supervision (Chair: Heiner Fangerau, Düsseldorf)

The sociology of supervision: Düsseldorf dissertations 1925-1945 (Ulrich Koppitz, Düsseldorf)

Does a dissertation guarantee a good doctor? (Daniela Angetter-Pfeiffer, Vienna)

Dissertations by authors from Polish Prussia at Leiden University, 17th-18th centuries (Katarzyna Pękacka-Falkowska, Poznań)

Break

17:00-17:20

Transforming Dissertation Culture in Medicine: The Impact of Mentoring on Female Early-Career Researchers (Ekaterina Masetkina & Annika Hof, Düsseldorf)

19:00

Dinner

FRIDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

09:00-10:00

International trends and transfers (Chair: Erki Tammiksaar, Tartu)

An Unfortunate ‚Misunderstanding‘ that led to the Successful Implementation of MD/PhD Programs in North America: Abraham Flexner (1866-1959), his European Tour, and the Model of the John’s Hopkins University School of Medicine (Frank Stahnisch, Calgary)

Going Abroad to Gain a Title. Doctorate Strategies of German Dentists and Veterinarians, 1890-1919 (Olga Sparschuh, Vienna)

Dissertations in urology: a comparison between Germany, France and the United States 1850-1950 (Friedrich Moll & Giacomo Padrini, Düsseldorf)

Break

10:20-11:40

The cultural history of dissertations (Chair: Daniela Angetter-Pfeiffer, Vienna)

Genius Dissertations, or a short history of the medical and scientific interest in genius (Laura Prins, Utrecht)

The contested career of a psychological dissertation on pathological gambling in 1980s West Germany (Sophia Gröschel, Bremen)

Between the Lines: Reading the History of Medicine and Childhood through Paediatric Dissertations (Michaela Clark & Anne Oommen-Halbach, Düsseldorf)

Prestige and dissertation prizes (Thorsten Halling, Düsseldorf)

11:40-12:00 Commentary (Carsten Timmermann, Manchester)

12:00-12:10 Concluding remarks and farewell

Break

13:30 Meeting of the German-Polish Society for the History of Medicine

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