*First call for abstracts*

**Symposium: Scientific contacts between Germany and Scandinavia during the Cold War**

When and where: 28-30 March, 2019, The Mickeln house at the Heinrich-Heine-University, Duesseldorf, Germany (Alt-Himmelgeist 25, 40589 Düsseldorf)

Organizers:

Department for the History, Philosophy, and Ethics of medicine, Heinrich-Heine-University Duesseldorf, Germany (Dr. Nils Hansson, Thorsten Halling, Prof. Heiner Fangerau)

Department for History of Medicine, Lund University, Sweden (Prof. Peter M Nilsson)

During the 19th century, and up to the first decades of the 20th, Scandinavian physicians and natural scientists were heavily influenced by German academia

(Larsen 1996, Hösch et al 1999). German was the prime scientific language in Scandinavia (Reinbothe 2006, Prinz & Korhonen 2011), students and researchers went on study trips to Germany and published their research in German journals (Nilsson et al 2006, Brissman 2010). Although the exchange was encouraged from both sides of the Baltic Sea, it is fair to say that Swedish researchers had a stronger interest in German science than vice versa (what has come to be known as "Swedish provincialism". See Seiler Brylla & Wåghäll Nivre 2015). However, this relationship was to change rather abruptly with the Second World War, which triggered in a marked decrease in collaboration between the two systems. (Broberg & Roll-Hansen 2005).

A number of studies on Scandinavian-German scientific relations between 1933 and 1945 have been published in recent years (Almgren 2005, Björkman et al 2016), but the relationships after the war have not yet been systematically examined (Almgren 2013), particularly as regards the fields of medicine and the natural sciences. Case studies suggest that the "neutral" Sweden could act as a gateway to the West for researchers from the GDR as well as a German-German contact zone (Hansson et al. 2018). The conference will focus on the transfer of knowledge across the Baltic Sea and old and new personal relationships between researchers in Northern Europe, and not least on the political and technological aspects of the contacts. How did science exchange work during the Cold War? In addition to Scandinavia, comparisons with other "neutral" states are possible. Are there differences in the exchange between the Scandinavian countries and Austria or Switzerland? To what extent did these countries serve as a hub for German-German exchanges?

**Key-note lecture**

Dr. Charlotta Seiler Brylla, Universität Stockholm: „Deutschland ist bekanntlich nicht nur die Bundesrepublik“. Akademische Beziehungen zwischen Schweden und der DDR im Kalten Krieg

A variety of thematic and methodological contributions are welcome, for example with regards to

– Communication (including media / language, magazines, travel reports / biographies)

– Resources (research funding, foundations, cultural organizations)

– Knowledge transfer (including thought collectives, prevention strategies / operative medicine)

– Reputation / Recognition (including honorary doctorates, honorary memberships, awards, citations, reviews)

– Scientific communities (including partner organizations / university cooperation, student exchange, networks, generational change)

– Objects (including medical technology, technology transfer)

– Politics / Ideology (including neutrality, GDR / FRG)

Please send your abstract (max. 400 words) or panel suggestion (max. 1000 words) in English or German per E-Mail to: [nils.hansson@hhu.de](mailto:nils.hansson@hhu.de) Deadline November 15, 2018.

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**Literature**

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