

# Humanities and Social Sciences

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# Societal Impacts of Humanities

- Humanities provide basic knowledge:  
they are not empiric
- Humanities allow to understand traditions:  
they help to recall and to memorize
- Humanities enable to differentiate:  
they help to structure and to prioritize information  
in order to create hierarchies of knowledge
- Humanities offer literacy:  
they provide us with the skills to concentrate on,  
to understand, and to repeat reading



# Importance of Humanities and Social Sciences

- There is no reflection of knowledge, of history, and of our social roles without the humanities.
- A country that neglects the humanities and social sciences damages its culture, its history, and its identity.
- Training in the humanities and social sciences conveys the ability to think innovatively and to work scientifically, and is the foundation of scientific research.
- Innovation in the humanities consists in the development of reflective knowledge.

# Support for Humanities and Social Sciences

- Humanities and Social Sciences do not require much funding.
- Public and private funding is needed for fundamental resources and provide scholars in the humanities and social sciences with time.
- Humanities scholars and social scientists need new forms of cooperation.
- Support measures:  
Research groups funded by German Research Foundation (DFG),  
Programs of Volkswagen Foundation or Thyssen Foundation,  
Horizon 2020 on EU level

# Strengths of Freie Universität Berlin

- among the 5 top universities in Germany and among the 100 best worldwide<sup>1</sup>
- FUB's Humanities and Social Sciences departments listed as the best in Germany<sup>2</sup>
- Numerous subjects that are not widely studied in Germany, such as Arabic Studies, Byzantine Studies or Dutch Philology
- innovative and high-performance natural sciences
- frequent spin-offs from university projects



## Facts and Figures

- 35,500 students and 4,300 doctoral candidates at Freie Universität Berlin
- 33% of students and 28% of doctoral candidates in Humanities and Social Sciences
- 54% of all degree programs offered by Freie Universität Berlin are programs in Humanities and Social Sciences



# Humanities at Freie Universität Berlin

## Platforms for large-scale projects and their coordination



# Dahlem Humanities Center

- The Focus Area Dahlem Humanities Center is the hub of the rich expertise in the humanities found at Freie Universität Berlin.
- Its mission is to investigate new questions and research trends by fostering regional and international interdisciplinary research cooperation with leading institutions from all over the world.
- Activities: lectures, conferences, workshops, panel discussions
- different international postdoc programs (funded by Volkswagen Foundation and Mellon Foundation, Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung, Thyssen Foundation)
- forums of ideas for launching new research projects
- thematic network “Principles of Cultural Dynamics“