



Press Release

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"Fringe Subjects" project enters its second phase

The second phase of the "Fringe Subjects" project began in early March. Commissioned by the German Rectors' Conference (Hochschulrektorenkonferenz – HRK), the project examines the situation of the "fringe subjects" at Germany's universities. The project was once again realised under the leadership of Professor Dr. Norbert Franz, Institute of Slavonic Studies at the University of Potsdam. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) will provide the project with financial support over three years.

The consequences of the Bologna Reforms, the working foundations with their wealth of tradition – such as old and ancient libraries or laboratories – as well as the state of global networking will be documented for some 120 subjects. The project will also deliver the development planners and representatives of the subjects with the background information required for the necessary transregional coordination processes. Workshops and an international conference will provide a forum to encourage and mediate discussion and debate between the various players and stakeholders.

The first project phase from July 2007 to February 2008 served produce a nationwide map and survey that takes stock of the fringe subjects and shows how each subject has developed over the past 20 years. This first and extremely useful documentary record has now resulted in the project being continued on a larger scale.

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