The way we compare objects, concepts or people is closely related to the way we form a picture of the world and how it changes. When we compare, we attach more importance to certain objects of comparison and comparative views than to others. As a social practice and scientific method, comparison creates order; it is the key to the genesis, change and preservation of categories, norms and values.

At the SFB 1288-Midterm Conference from 16 to 18 June 2022 in Bielefeld, the following questions will be explored: What role does comparison play in the perception, representation and shaping of social and historical change? More specifically: Are practices of comparing catalysts, drivers or mirrors of change? How do these practices develop and in what ways are they influenced by other social, cultural and scientific practices and processes? Especially here, the question of how these processes and situations are modelled also plays a role. What factors are included in models of change and how are they weighted?

Processes of social change can be initiated suddenly, for example in response to political, economic and environmental challenges. Or they can be gradual and take place over a long period of time; they can affect smaller systems, communities and practices or have far-reaching, sometimes even global and historical impacts. Together with (inter)national speakers, the diversity and plurality of such processes of change will be considered. We will discuss how these processes are conceived, represented and brought about. We want to approach the topic by examining the particular orders, models and perceptions in different time periods and world regions that serve to describe, explain or bring about phenomena of change, and how they are related to practices of comparison.

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LOCATION
Schüco Arena
(Arminia Bielefeld)
Melanchthonstr. 31a
33615 Bielefeld
CITEC Building
(Bielefeld University)
Inspiration 1
33619 Bielefeld
THURSDAY, 16.06.2022  
(SCHÜCO ARENA | ARMINIA BIELEFELD)

17:00  Arrival
17:30–18:00  WELCOME  
SFB 1288 Spokeswoman Antje Flüchter, Kirsten Kramer & Rebecca Mertens

18:00–20:00  EVENING LECTURE  
Mary Morgan, London: Comparing Countries: The Paradox of Too Many Numbers?  
Moderation: Antje Flüchter, Bielefeld

FROM 20:00  Reception

FRIDAY, 17.06.2022  
(CITEC | BIELEFELD UNIVERSITY)

09:00–09:15  WELCOME  
SFB 1288 Spokeswoman Antje Flüchter

09:15–11:15  PANEL I  
Moderation: Carsten Reinhardt, Bielefeld  
Silke Schwandt & Rebecca Mertens, Bielefeld: Modeling the Relationship between Social, Scientific and Political Change in the FRG and the USA, 1950–1990  
Maximilian Benz, Bielefeld: Crisis of Model and Modeling. Attempts at Re-Orientation through Comparative Practices in Late Medieval Piety

11:15  Coffee Break

11:30–12:30  PANEL II  
Moderation: Cornelia Aust, Bielefeld  
David Nirenberg, Chicago / Princeton: Writing the long History of Race: Comparison, Analogies, or Inter-Connection?

12:30  Lunch Break

14:00–16:00  PANEL III  
Moderation: Elisa Ronzheimer, Bielefeld  
Angus Nicholls, London: Theories of Stadial Change in the German ‘Geisteswissenschaften’ around 1870–1900: Bastian, Dilthey, Scherer and Boas  
Kirsten Kramer, Bielefeld: Modeling Diversity, Comparability, and Change. Transformations of the Comparative Method in French Ethnography after 1900

16:00  Coffee Break

16:30–17:30  PANEL IV  
Moderation: Peter Kramper, Bielefeld  
Thomas Müller & Mathias Albert, Bielefeld: Making Sense of World Political Change, 1970 to 2020  
Angelika Epple, Bielefeld: Comparing and Globalizing. The Paradox of Unintended Effects

17:30  Short Break

17:45–18:45  PANEL DISCUSSION OF THE SFB 1288 DOCTORAL STUDENTS  
Moderation: Tobias Werron, Bielefeld

FROM 18:45  Joint Dinner

SATURDAY, 18.06.2022  
(CITEC | BIELEFELD UNIVERSITY)

09:00–11:00  PANEL III  
Moderation: Elisa Ronzheimer, Bielefeld


Angus Nicholls, London: Theories of Stadial Change in the German ‘Geisteswissenschaften’ around 1870–1900: Bastian, Dilthey, Scherer and Boas

Kirsten Kramer, Bielefeld: Modeling Diversity, Comparability, and Change. Transformations of the Comparative Method in French Ethnography after 1900

11:00  Coffee Break

11:30–13:30  PANEL IV  
Moderation: Peter Kramper, Bielefeld

Thomas Müller & Mathias Albert, Bielefeld: Making Sense of World Political Change, 1970 to 2020

Angelika Epple, Bielefeld: Comparing and Globalizing. The Paradox of Unintended Effects

13:30  Lunch Break

15:00–16:30  ROUND TABLE  
Ulrike Davy, Carlos Spoerhase, Willibald Steinmetz, Bielefeld, & Andreas Pečar, Halle  
Moderation: Antje Flüchter, Bielefeld

FROM 16:30  Coffee Break