

International Workshop

# Wissens geschichte History of Knowledge

**October 10-12, 2014**

University of Colorado,  
Boulder, USA

What are the uses of a history of knowledge? Considering that we allegedly live in the age of knowledge, the question might sound naive. But, it would follow from UNESCO's claim that the human condition is based on knowledge per se, that all human societies are knowledge societies. Although not at all a new phenomenon, knowledge has increasingly become the major productive force in our postindustrial societies, crucial to our current culture and to the ways in which we think about it. A history of knowledge is, therefore, driven by the urge to understand the genealogy of our present world and to develop a critical view thereof.

As a field of academic research, history of knowledge has accessed and influenced virtually every discipline in the humanities in the last 25 years. These disciplines share a common denominator: similar theoretical and critical backgrounds. However, a truly interdisciplinary dialogue on an international level about methods, approaches, and goals seems to be lacking so far. As a step toward addressing this lack, this workshop aims to bring together scholars with different academic and national backgrounds to discuss the present relevance and the methodological possibilities of an interdisciplinary history of knowledge. We will explore the similarities and variations in how different disciplines and national academic cultures approach a history of knowledge. Our goal is to initiate a broader approach to the history of knowledge by inviting scholars of literature, culture, philosophy, art, history, science and technology studies.

**Organized by**

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**Sponsored by**

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