Fellows

Thilo Neidhöfer
IFK_Junior Fellow

Duration of fellowship
01. October 2016 bis 30. June 2017

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Thilo Neidhöfer

PROJECT-TITLE
In the Equilibrium of Cultures: Margaret Mead, Gregory Bateson, and American Anthropology, ca. 1930-1950

PROJECT-DESCRIPTION
Husband and wife Margaret Mead (1901-1978) and Gregory Bateson (1904-1980) were among the leading American anthropologists in the 1930s and 1940s. Thilo Neidhöfer’s dissertation project explores the reconfigured relationship between science and state with these two tightly intertwined life stories as its focal point. In a time of radical change in the US and worldwide, anthropology – a central discipline in the humanities – can be regarded as a seismograph for key social, cultural, and political changes. The focus on a single couple allows for, on the one hand, an elucidation of how individual actors negotiated transformations in scientific disciplines and, on the other hand, brings to light the relevant interconnectedness between, e.g., science, state, and the public sphere.
Thilo Neidhöfer studied history and political science in Oldenburg and Long Beach, and completed his studies with a thesis on autobiographical practices of subjectification among English merchants in the 17th century. He was a research assistant in the University of Oldenburg Department of History and then a teaching assistant and teacher for mobile and stationary youth services. In 2013 he was a Doctoral Fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. He has been a doctoral student in the at the University of Linz Department of Modern and Contemporary History since 2012, and was employed there as a university assistant until summer 2016.

Publications