

Historical Social Research

Historische Sozialforschung

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Der Zirkelschmid

Special Issue:
**Conventions and Quantification –
Transdisciplinary Perspectives on
Statistics and Classifications**

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«Formalization means a variety of procedures that match descriptions of events, structures, and processes with explicit models of those events, structures, and processes. Formal methods do not necessarily involve quantification or computing; analyses of linguistic, spatial, or temporal structure, for example, often proceed quite formally without computers and without any direct intervention of mathematics.»

Charles Tilly (1929–2008)

«Historical Social Research – Historische Sozialforschung» (HSR) is a peer-reviewed international journal for the application of formal methods to history. Formal methods can be defined as all methods which are sufficiently intersubjective to be realized as an information science algorithm. The applications of formal methods to history extend from quantitative and computer-assisted qualitative social research, historical information science, and Digital Humanities. In a broader sense the field of Historical Social Research can be described as an inter-/ transdisciplinary paradigm.

For its quality and relevance for the scientific community, the journal has been selected for covering and archiving in several databases. Thus, the journal is, among others, to be found in SocIndex with FULL TEXT, JSTOR, and in the Social Science Citation Index. In 2011, the European Science Foundation has classified the HSR as an international top-journal "with high visibility and influence among researchers in the various research domains in different countries, regularly cited all over the world."

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Rainer Diaz-Bone & Emmanuel Didier (Eds.)

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Transdisciplinary Perspectives on
Statistics and Classifications

Mixed Issue

Article

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Cooperating Associations / Networks / Journals

QUANTUM (Association for Quantification and Methods in Historical and Social Research) <http://www.gesis.org/en/hsr/profile/quantum>.

INTERQUANT (International Commission of the application of Quantitative Methods in History) <http://www.gesis.org/en/hsr/profile/quantum>.

H-SOZ-KULT (Communication and Information Services for Historians) <http://www.hsozkult.de>.

AFC (Association Française de Cliométrie) <http://www.cliometrie.org>.

AGE (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Geschichte und EDV) <http://www.age-net.de>.

AHC (International Association for History and Computing) <http://odur.let.rug.nl/ahc>.

FQS (Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung – Forum Qualitative Social Research) <http://www.qualitative-research.net/fqs>.

HISTORICUM.NET <http://www.historicum.net>.

ZOL (Zeitgeschichte-online) <http://www.zeitgeschichte-online.de>.

PERSPECTIVIA.NET <http://www.perspectivia.net>.

Archiving by Information Services

JSTOR (ITHAKA) <http://www.jstor.org/r/histsocres>.

SSOAR (Social Science Open Access Repository) <http://www.ssoar.info>.

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In recognition of the high quality and relevance to the scientific community our journal *Historical Social Research* has been selected for coverage / archiving in the following databases:

Social Science Citation Index (Thomson Scientific) <http://scientific.thomson.com/products/ssci>.

SCOPUS (Elsevier) <http://www.scopus.com>.

SocINDEX with FULL TEXT (EBSCO) <https://www.ebscohost.com>.

Sociological Abstracts (ProQuest) <http://www.csa.com>.

Historical Abstracts (ABC-CLIO) <https://www.ebscohost.com/academic/historical-abstracts>.

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**Special Issue: Rainer Diaz-Bone & Emmanuel Didier (Eds.):
Conventions and Quantification – Transdisciplinary Perspectives
on Statistics and Classifications**

In the last few decades, the field of "quantification" – namely the "sociology of quantification" – has evolved and it has shown an impressive development. There are many different strands of science contributing research on processes of quantification and the impact of quantification within social contexts. The concept of quantification is positioned at the crossroad linking approaches such as accounting theory, convention theory (*économie des conventions*), sociology and history of statistics, analysis of commensuration, sociology of standards and of standardization, analysis of benchmarking, and others.

Alain Desrosières was an internationally renowned scholar in the fields of sociology of quantification and history of statistics. His work can be regarded as the most important contribution to this field. Desrosières was also a "compagnon de route" of the French movement of the so-called "*économie des conventions*" which postulated the convention-based (and therefore social) nature of qualities, categories and quantities. Consequently, Desrosières' work was also one of the main inspirations for this HSR Special Issue.

This HSR Special Issue presents recent and transdisciplinary research on the history and sociology of quantification. Building upon the work of Desrosières, this issue includes contributions on the history of science from the eighteenth century to today, covering topics such as: the millennium development goals, financial quantification, and quantification in higher education environments. All in all, the contributions work out the "political economy" as well as the "political sociology" of statistics, categorization, and quantification.

