

SFB 1150 „Cultures of Decision-Making“

Project Area B “Formation and Framing of Decision-Making”: Abstracts of the projects

Project B01 Dilatory Action as a Technique of Rule in the High and Late Middle Ages (Jan Keupp)

The project addresses the dilatory practices of the imperial regiments of Frederick I (Barbarossa) and Frederick III. The focus is on the question of how the need for decision-making was produced, negotiated and assessed in the context of court and ruler. The diachronic-comparative perspective helps to illuminate the relation between legal and administrative consolidation and the cultural connotations of dilatory action on the part of rulers.

Project B02 Problematic Procedures: Criticism and Reflection of the Decision-Making Practices in the Medieval Inquisition of Heretics (ca. 1230-1330) (Sita Steckel)

This project examines the critical discourses surrounding the medieval inquisition which emerged in Italy and France between the 1230s and 1330s and which evolved into a finely-tuned apparatus of decision-making. The project thus asks which aspects of inquisitional decision-making were criticized, reflected and adapted (in certain circumstances) as a result. It can thus be understood as a case study on the institutionalization and transformation of decision-making structures while also investigating the demarcations made between the cultures of religious and legal decision-making that were inextricably intertwined in the inquisition.

Project B03 Decisions without Alternatives? The Establishment of the Spanish Inquisition during the Reign of the Catholic Monarchs (Wolfram Drews)

Based on an analysis of documents and handbooks from the Inquisition, this project examines the development of the inquisitional trial as a specific form of decision-making. It also examines how these decision-making actions were used and politically exploited in the consolidation of monarchic power during the reign of the Catholic kings (1474-1516), in the course of which structures of the early modern Spanish state were being established.

Project B04 Decisions about Truth and the Pressure to Take a Position: The Communicative Production of Needs for Decision-Making in the Early Reformation (Matthias Pohlig)

In the early Reformation, a new plurality of religious decision-making options was under discussion while people also debated whether decisions had to be made at all. By pursuing research on cultures of decision-making in the early Reformation, the project aims to obtain new insights on two central themes: urban religious colloquies and the relation of Humanism and the Reformation. In both these areas, the project emphasizes the communicative production of decision-making needs as well as the procedures and performances of decision-making itself.

Project B05 Political Decision-Making on Security in British Parliamentarism, 16th to 19th centuries (Rolf Ahmann / André Krischer)

This project examines the production and representation of decision-making in the English and British Parliaments between the 16th and 19th centuries. Parliamentary legislation is thereby examined micro-historically: it is considered as complex, nested, incremental and discontinuous events taking place within and beyond the debates in the Houses of Parliament. The project focuses on processes of decision-making on security. That includes both dealing with internal threats in the period of confessionalization as well as making decisions about warfare in Asia in the mid-19th century.

Project B06 The Differentiation of Policy Fields: Economic-Political Decision-Making in German Territories and States in the 18th and 19th Centuries (Ulrich Pfister)

In modern societies, political decision-making takes place within the framework of policy fields, which over time develop in policy cycles. This project analyses the emergence of political fields/ policies in Germany during the late eighteenth and the first two thirds of the nineteenth centuries. On the one hand, it synthesizes the rise of policy fields and the development of single economic policies; on the other hand it provides a case study of state infrastructure (road construction) policies.

Project B07 The Framing of Political Decision-Making in the Post-Colonial State-Building Process: Argentina and Mexico in the First Half of the 19th Century (Silke Hensel)

This project examines post-colonial state formation in Argentina and Mexico, specifically how processes of policy-making were framed in the transition from the ancien régime to the republic. In addition, the relationship of formally regulated and informal procedures will be examined. Furthermore, the question of physical force plays an important role, because it represented a significant resource in decision-making processes, although its legitimating power came into conflict with new political institutions in the emerging republics.