

The Thematic Network **Principles of Cultural Dynamics (PCD)**, based at the Dahlem Humanities Center (DHC) at Freie Universität Berlin, is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). It aims at strengthening transnational cooperation in humanities research between the DHC and the following institutions:

**Harvard University, Mahindra Humanities Center**

**The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Faculty of Humanities**

**The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Research Institute for the Humanities**

**École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales**

**Johns Hopkins University, Humanities Center**



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# PRINCIPLES OF CULTURAL DYNAMICS

A Thematic Network  
in the Humanities



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## Thematic Focus

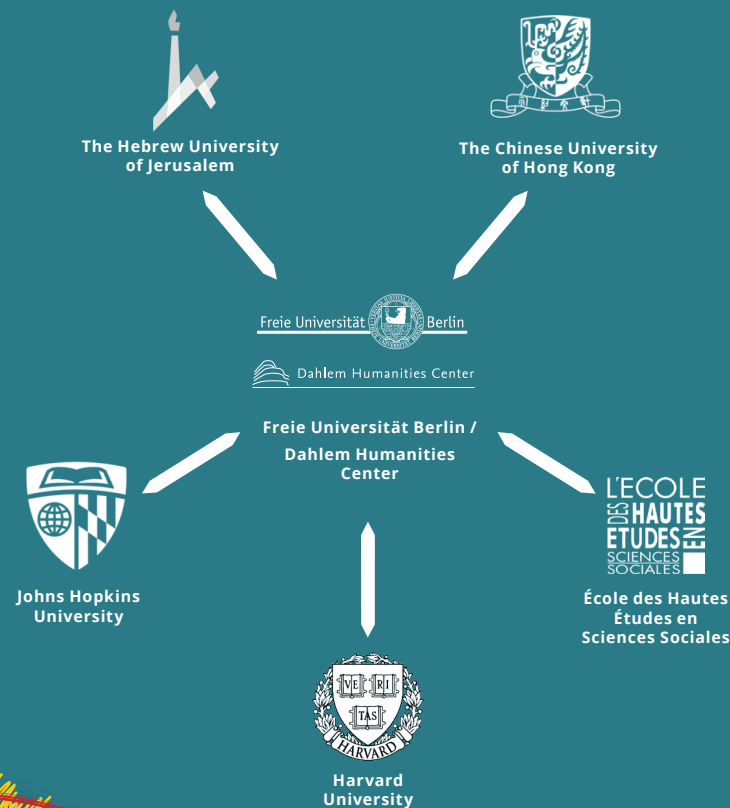
The choice of the network's thematic focus, "Principles of Cultural Dynamics", is based on the observation that the dynamics of processes of cultural change and innovation have varied considerably across historical time periods and places. The PCD network aims to research factors that may account for what triggers processes of cultural innovation, what accelerates and hinders them, and what may cause them to subside entirely. It is to stimulate an investigation: of changes in (economic and geopolitical) power structures; of influences on the natural habitat, as well as changes in the latter; of the diversity of world views and religions and their authoritativeness; of the existence and effect of what the West has been calling art for three millennia; of the impact of institutional structures (of political, but also of educational nature); of coerced or freely chosen mobility—to name but a few thematic complexes.

This research question, transcending space and time, virtually calls for being investigated cooperatively, and in a transnational context: the network offers the opportunity to integrate individual case studies with a strong local and temporal focus; it likewise opens up a space for larger, interdisciplinary research projects, thereby breaking ground for a theory of cultural dynamics.

## Mobility Program

The network specifically promotes mobility at all career levels, including M.A. students, PhD students, PostDocs, as well as senior scholars, in order to further the sustainability of the various forms of research collaboration. On all three career levels, FUB hosts one scholar from each partner institution, and one FUB scholar is hosted by each partner institution per academic year.

All open calls for applications are continuously announced on the PCD website.



## Activities

### **Global Humanities Campus (GHC)**

The GHC takes place annually, during the summer months, and consists of a two-week summer school, as well as of a two-day workshop.

As part of the summer school, the participants of the mobility program of the PCD network, circulating in the course of the year, convene for two weeks in Berlin. In addition, graduate and doctoral students from all partner institutions are invited to take part in the summer school at Freie Universität Berlin. The individual sessions are taught by postdocs and senior scholars from the cooperating universities, whose research focus pertains to the network's field of study. An accompanying cultural program provides the participants with the possibility of exchanging ideas, thus implementing and strengthening the backbone of the PCD project—the conception of a network.

### **Global Humanities Distinguished Lecture Series**

Each partner institution of the PCD network invites outstanding senior scholars conducting research within the framework of the network's concept. Under the umbrella of this lecture series, scholars from the humanities discuss various aspects of cultural processes, changes and innovations spanning all historical eras. The invited senior scholars present and discuss their research topics during a series of evening lectures.