

Towards a New Political History

Organisers

Institute of History and Civilization, University of Southern Denmark
Centre for Welfare State Research, University of Southern Denmark
Danish Research School in History
Nordic Centre of Excellence: Nordwel

Date: 23-24 September 2010

Place: University of Southern Denmark, Odense (two hours by train from Copenhagen Airport)

Seminar description

“History is past politics; politics is present history”. For many years, this statement by Sir John Seeley represented everything that was wrong with the “traditional paradigm”. Historians had to go beyond politics. However, the historical study of politics survived, and in recent years, many historians have sought not to overcome the study of politics, but to have it expanded. The German trend towards a “new political history” (*neue Politikgeschichte*) seems especially worth mentioning.

With this seminar, we invite Ph.D.-students as well as senior scholars to discuss theoretical perspectives for the study of political history in the 21st century. We will explore the nature and history of the concept of politics; the role of concepts, discourses and rhetoric in political processes; the study of politics from a cultural perspective; and we will confront the consequences of transnational perspectives for the field of political history. In addition to four keynote lectures, there will be two sessions open for Ph.D. presentations of ongoing work on a relevant topic. *In case you have a proposal for a presentation, please let us know as soon as possible.* The Danish Research School in History will issue a diploma (4 ECTS) for such presentations (2,5 ECTS for participation without presentation). The seminar is an open event with no seminar fee. The organisers will arrange for lunch on both days of the seminar as well as a seminar dinner (please register), and the convenors can assist with practical matters regarding accommodation.

Programme

Thursday

10.30-10.45 Welcome
10.45-12.00 Pasi Ihalainen (Jyväskylä): Opening the Concept of Politics
12.00-13.00 Lunch
13.00-14.15 Nils Arne Sørensen (Odense): Politics as Culture: Examples and Perspectives
14.15-14.30 Coffee
14.30-16.30 PhD presentations

Friday

10.00-11.15 Pauli Kettunen (Helsinki): Concepts and Language in Political History
11.15-12.30 Norbert Götz (Stockholm): Political History as Transnational History
12.30-13.30 Lunch
13.30-15.30 PhD presentations

Convenors

Klaus Petersen, Institute of Political Science, University of Southern Denmark
Jeppe Nevers, Institute of History & Civilization, University of Southern Denmark

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