

54th Deutscher Historikertag
Fragile Facts
Call for Panels

The 54th Deutsche Historikertag will take place in Leipzig from September 19th to 22nd 2023. For now, we are planning an in-person meeting. The Historikertag aims to showcase current historical research in all its diversity and international connectedness. The thematic focus of the Historikertag will be *Fragile Facts*. While one third of the panels shall address this topic, the remainder are subject to an open call. Proposals for panels can be submitted as of today. The deadline for submissions is September 30th 2022.

Fragile Facts

Fake news, alternative facts, fact checking – this terminology has pervaded public debate in recent years. Like a prism these terms reflect the ways in which the establishment of facts and scientific insight is a contested process in contemporary politics and society. What counts as true? What as false? And which strategies are proving successful in helping one position win out over others?

Crucially, these questions do not only pertain to the contemporary world. They have long been fundamental in historical research. Every line of historical inquiry must address the problem of facticity, and history itself is replete with examples of fragile facts and how historical subjects have dealt with them. Thinking about fragile facts also invites methodological reflection on the field of history itself, on its contents, methodologies, and theoretical underpinnings – at a time, when constructivist terminology is being misused for relativization and misinformation. Historians' competency in establishing facts is becoming more important: in scientific research, in schools, and in dealing with the media.

As a result, the VHD is inviting proposals for panels that engage with the following topics:

- the problem, both old and new, of the political use and abuse of historical facticity as well as its communicative manipulation
- methodological and theoretical reflection on the status and relevance of facts and facticity for historical research
- the consequences of digitalization for the status, availability, and connection of historical facts and/or data and the forms of science communication that result from them
- the communication of historical facts and their historical (re)construction in public-facing media
- the challenges that result from new methods and their claims to facticity

The 54th Historikertag as forum for current historical research

The VHD is inviting its members to use the Historikertag as a showcase for current historical research in all its chronological, topical and methodological diversity. Two thirds of the panels are open for proposals that concern topics other than *Fragile Facts*. In so doing, we hope the Historikertag will demonstrate both the unity and the diversity of the historical profession.

Furthermore, we aim to make the Historikertag 2023 reflect the international dimensions of current historical research. Scholarly debates that cross national borders and the contributions of international colleagues are most welcome. As in the past, we will provide financial support for panel participants from abroad. Should in-person participation prove exceedingly difficult, there will be a possibility to contribute online. Any such online contributions will have to be registered in advance.

Guidelines regarding submission and panel formats

Proposals for panels can be submitted until September 30th 2022. Please consider the following guidelines before submitting your proposals.

- Use the form [HT2023 Sektionsvorschläge](#) and send it to leipzig@historikertag.de. Please follow the guidelines on the form itself.
- Panels are to last 2,5 hours (150 minutes). This allows for five to six speakers/panelists. Experience has shown that commentators/discussants tend to detract from in-depth discussion. As a result, we suggest that you do without.
- Each person may apply for the participation in **one panel** regardless of their role.
- As part of the submission process panels will not be attributed to specific period. In the selection process, however, we will aim to achieve some balance.
- Only members of the VHD can submit proposals for panels. In case you are not a member, you can submit a [membership application](#) together with your proposal. Researchers from abroad can submit a proposal, as long as they cooperate with a member of the VHD.
- Panels at the Historikertag are to generate lively discussion. We advise against reproducing conferences that have already taken place and/or research networks that are limited to only one university.
- We also encourage our members to pay attention to equity and diversity in choosing panelists.

Please direct your questions to the managing director of the VHD and to the managing director of the 54th Historikertag:

Dr. Leonie Treber: treber@historikerverband.de

PD Dr. Thomas Urban: leipzig@historikertag.de