

## Pressemitteilung

Freie Universität Berlin

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Forschungsprojekte, Kooperationen  
Geschichte / Archäologie, Gesellschaft, Politik  
überregional



## LGBTIQ\* Movements as Agents of Democratization

From the 2025 summer semester onward, the Volkswagen Foundation will be providing 1.4 million euros' worth of funding for a project aimed at investigating how LGBTIQ\* movements contributed toward democratization processes in Germany and Austria throughout the twentieth century. The collaborative project, entitled "LGBTIQ\* Movements as Agents of Democratization: Historical, Contemporary, and Future Resources for Imagining Inclusive and Diverse Democracies," will be based at Freie Universität and partner institutions in Giessen and Vienna. The project has a timeline of just over three years.

The transdisciplinary team behind the project consists of researchers and practitioners from queer archives; performance art; and the fields of history, political science, and theater and dance studies. Historian Andrea Rottmann will act as project coordinator. Together, the team plans to explore and digitize archival materials, analyze them using transdisciplinary methods, and create an oral history collection – together with other innovative formats for sharing this knowledge such as theater workshops, digital storytelling, and podcasts. "Our aim is to confront anti-LGBTIQ\* narratives and disinformation surrounding historical knowledge," explains Rottmann.

The project application was submitted by Andrea Rottmann, Christine Klapeer (Justus Liebig University Giessen), Gin Müller (Verein zur Förderung der Bewegungsfreiheit, Vienna), Hannes Hacke and Roman Klarfeld (QueerSearch, Association of German-Speaking Queer Archives, Libraries, and Collections Berlin), and Eike Wittrock (Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna).

Andrea Rottmann has carried out research on queer contemporary history (post-1945) in both the USA and Germany. She jointly published the Handbuch Queere Zeitgeschichten (Handbook of Queer Contemporary History) together with historians Martin Lücke (Freie Universität Berlin) and Benno Gammerl (European University Institute, Florence). Her award-winning doctoral dissertation, Queer Lives Across the Wall: Desire and Danger in Divided Berlin, 1945–1970, originally published in 2019, was published in book form in May 2023. The book recently won the Waterloo Centre for German Studies Book Prize.

At Freie Universität, the project will be attached to the History Education Division, chaired by Professor Martin Lücke. Lücke co-coordinates the Queer Contemporary History in German-Speaking Europe network and has led several queer history projects funded by the German Research Foundation, for example, Human Rights, Queer Genders and Sexualities since the 1970s. "This new project ensures that the Division of History Education at Freie Universität Berlin remains a beacon for queer history research in Germany," says Lücke.

wissenschaftliche Ansprechpartner:

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URL zur Pressemitteilung: [http://More information on the History Education Division \(in German\):  
https://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/e/fmi/bereiche/ab\\_didaktik/index.html](http://More%20information%20on%20the%20History%20Education%20Division%20(in%20German):https://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/e/fmi/bereiche/ab_didaktik/index.html)