



Research Group B-I-1

October 16th–17th 2009

**International Conference**

## Consciousness as a public sphere:

Historical and epistemic conditions for the development of ancient Greek democracy



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- 9.30 – 10.45 Greetings and Introduction  
Volker Gerhardt & Colin Guthrie King (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
- Section 1: The formation and conceptualization of polis and community in pre-democratic Greece**
- 10.30 – 11.45 Christoph Ulf (Universität Innsbruck): The early polis and the conditions for polis-identity
- 12.00 – 13.30 *Lunch*
- 13.30 – 14.45 Johannes Haubold (Durham University): The construction of community in Homer
- 14.45 – 15.00 *Break*
- 15.00 – 16.15 Elizabeth Irwin (Columbia University): Symptotic poetics and the creation of an Athenian public sphere
- Section 2: The Athenian public sphere**
- 16.15 – 17.30 Josiah Ober (Stanford University): Democracy and the institutions of common political knowledge
- 17.30 – 18.00 Discussion
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- Section 2: The Athenian public sphere (cont.)**
- 9.30 – 10.45 Marek Wecowski (University of Warsaw): Consciousness and publicity in political practice: the case of ostracism
- 10.45 – 12.00 Philipp Scheibelreiter (Universität Wien): Der delisch-attische Seebund und sein Einfluss auf die Athenische Öffentlichkeit – eine völkerrechtliche Perspektive
- 12.00 – 13.30 *Lunch*
- 13.30 – 14.45 Johannes Engels (Universität Köln): Der Areopag und die Ekklesia in der Ära des Eubulos und des Lykurg (355–322 v. Chr.)
- 14.45 – 15.00 *Break*
- Section 3: The public sphere and democracy: two points of comparison**
- 15.00 – 16.15 Karl-Joachim Hölkeskamp (Universität Köln): „Proper place in the history of democratic values“? Die Debatte um die politische Kultur der römischen Republik
- 16.15 – 17.30 Wilfried Nippel (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin): Democracy ancient and modern, revisited
- 17.30 – 18.00 Final Discussion

# Research Group B-I-1 October 16th–17th 2009 **International Conference** **Consciousness as a public sphere:** Historical and epistemic conditions for the development of ancient Greek democracy

What were the social and historical conditions which led to the formation of democratic institutions in ancient Athens? And how were these forms of social and political organization articulated consciously in a sphere of public discourse?

These are the questions to be addressed at this conference. Scholars from the fields of Ancient History, Philosophy and Classics will contribute their answers within the theoretical framework of TOPOI project B I 1, which encourages systematic reflection upon publicity and the public sphere in ancient Greek democracy through analogies between individual and collective consciousness.

The discovery of the public realm as the final instance of authority in claims of knowledge and opinion is often attributed to the thinkers of the Enlightenment. Yet the epistemic and communicative functions of publicity are fundamental to a great variety of historical communities. They are also constitutive for individual consciousness, in which public and political conflicts and innovations are reflected.

Speakers at the conference will explore the social, cultural and political institutions of ancient poleis and Athenian democracy with regard to three thematic complexes of publicity and consciousness, which correspond to the three sections of the conference.

**Section 1:** The formation and conceptualization of the polis as a collective in

pre-democratic Greece **Section 2:** The Athenian public sphere

**Section 3:** The public sphere and democratic values:

two points of comparison

## LOCATION

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