



Key Concepts of the Humanities and Social Sciences

An interdisciplinary lecture series of the
Institute of Advanced Study in the Humanities
and the Social Sciences | IASH
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The **IASH** is a research institute of the Philosophical-Historical Faculty of the University of Bern. It offers PhD students support and professional training and envisions an international orientation of academic research.

Tuesday, 9 April 2013, 18:15 – 19:30
University of Bern, Unitobler, Lerchenweg 36
Room F-122

Network and Networking – A Web of Relationships in Historical Perspective

Dr. Dorit Raines (Università Ca' Foscari, Venezia)

The talk will address the question of the place and meaning of networks in the social sciences, and particularly in all facets of historical research. It will first attempt to illustrate the reasons for the growing interest 80s in the study of networks following the return to the theory of action developed by the Harvard and Chicago Schools under the direction of Talcott Parsons and Edward Shils. It will then continue to explore the potentiality of the network factor in both demographical and social studies and will concentrate on the relationship between Network Analysis Theory (NAT) and historical studies, in particular the issue of the network as an unstable social category. The final part of the talk will be dedicated to a cultural shift: to the question of the contemporary meaning of network and the difference between the birth of 'spontaneous' networks based on either individual or categorized relationship usually sharing common goals and the rise of 'networking' as an organized/commercial format of social, cultural and political relationship/s based either on information gathering and self-communication or simply on the desire to belong.

10 April, 9:15-16:30, room B-102, UniS, Schanzeneckstrasse 1, Bern

You have the opportunity to join a workshop with Dorit Raines. The event consists of a discussion of the lecture and a core text as well as presentations by PhD students of the Graduate School. Moderator: Prof. Dr. Simona Slanicka.

Please register with Manuela Rossini: rossini@iash.unibe.ch by 29 March 2013.

Dorit Raines is Assistant Professor at the Università Ca' Foscari in Venice where she teaches History of Libraries, History of Documents and History of Written Communication. She has completed her Ph.D. in History at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris and is mainly interested in the cultural, political and social formation and in the management of political information of elite groups, especially the Venetian patriciate. Among her publications are *La famiglia Manin e la cultura libraria tra Friuli e Venezia nel '700* (1996); *Al servizio dell' "amatissima patria". Le Memorie di Lodovico Manin e la gestione del potere nel Settecento veneziano* (1997); and *L'invention du mythe aristocratique. L'image de soi du patriciat vénitien au temps de la Sérénissime* (2006). She is the editor of *Biblioteche effimere. Biblioteche circoanti a Venezia, XIX-XX secolo* (2012).

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