

## **"Experiences of active service of German-Swiss officers during the First World War" (Working-title)**

This PhD thesis aims to analyse how German-Swiss officers experienced (*erfahren*) active service during the First World War. In doing so, it ties in with the cultural historical angle of military history, which has had little to no reception in Switzerland to date. Based on the assumption of the social constitution of reality, the project does not intend to point out individual states of consciousness, but thematizes underlying discursive structures (*Deutungsmuster*) and their changes. Experience (*Erfahrung*) is understood in reference to the pioneering special research area *Kriegserfahrungen* of the University of Tübingen. Experience (*Erfahrung*) is thus defined as techniques and forms of the appropriation and constitution of meaningful reality, which comprise an actor-specific (the experiencing individual) and a social dimension (socio-culturally objectified framework of individual experience).

The project focuses on the experiences of several dozen individuals in the years 1914 to 1918 and compares them diachronically with the experiences of members of other armies during the First World War. The sources are ego-documents (diaries, letters, memoirs, etc.) and military documents in Swiss archives, which are qualitatively evaluated in accordance with Achim Landwehr's historical discourse analysis and methodological considerations of Klaus Latzel.

MA Mario Podzorski, 05.12.2018