

International Conference: „Dramatic forms and urban peace“, April 9 – 11, 2018, Nuremberg Town Hall

(in cooperation with Albrecht-Dürer-Haus, The Art Collections of the City of Nuremberg, and Fembo-Haus municipal museum)

There has been recent discourse among scholars on the subversive or consolidating potential for civic order of the Nuremberg carnival plays:

There is an approach that considers the carnival plays a threat to public order. With the City Council rigidly regulating and controlling the art, literature, and theater business, the authors of the plays were forced to adopt strategies and coding techniques in order to escape the urban system of surveillance. In contrast, a resilience-based approach underlines the potential of the carnival plays to contribute to keeping stability and peace in the local community by representing a direct guideline towards a pragmatic and balanced way of life. The aesthetic strategies applied in this context, like ridiculing deviant forms of behavior, suggest that, within the sources, contemporary experiences of crisis met with resilient coping skills, i.e. such experiences were reflected and related models of coping, adaptation and transformation were tested.

Thus, the genre of the Carnival plays could have a subversive effect on the one hand, and a normative and socially stabilizing effect on the other. With that in mind, this genre became a medium for the responsible group, i.e. the economically significant but politically marginalized master craftsmen, to either threaten or consolidate urban peace.

The conference aims at analyzing ways in which this applies to other dramatic forms, their potential to impact on urban peace, the strategies used to achieve this goal, and the limits of that potential. Talks that present studies investigating examples of specific dramatic forms, including performances of plays, processions, dances, performances in fencing halls, or royal entries are appreciated. Contributions concerning related media like graphic print or card painting are also welcome.

The conference is interdisciplinary and considers proposed topics from the Historical Cultural Sciences (History of Literature, Theater, Material Culture, and Art History), as well as from related fields. The talks can be given in German or in English.

The papers are intended to be published in the conference proceedings.

Please send your abstracts (300-500 words) to tagung2017@uni-trier.de by August 11, 2017.