



Call for Papers

Workshop „Cognitive Mobility in the Sciences: Social, Technological and Cultural Dynamics”

While the role of physical or spatial mobility in academic careers is an established research topic, the context for mobilities in the academic field has changed significantly in recent years, not least due to international and transdisciplinary interconnectedness and competition as well as the digital transformation of research. Particularly in the context of the recent pandemic, physical mobility was almost impossible. The role and context of mobility must therefore be re-evaluated and examined.

In addition to physical or spatial mobility, processes of virtual and cognitive mobility are coming into focus. Cognitive mobility – conceived as the individual transition from one position to another in a knowledge space over time – may occur when researchers move from one discipline or subject area to another. Though these practices are strongly advocated by policy-makers and funding agencies, research on cognitive mobility is still rather fragmented. The cognitive dimensions of research have been explored in the context of peer review and evaluation, and attempts have been made in the sociology of science to understand how novel topics and fields in the sciences emerge and consolidate. However, few efforts were made to more systematically understand effects and dynamics of cognitive mobility both on the individual and the institutional level.

Given the difficulty of realising physical co-presence in recent years, it appears timely to reflect on the social, technological, and cultural conditions of cognitive mobility. Research in the field of social network analysis emphasizes the role of collaboration structures for finding new ideas. Yet, how does the digital transformation affect these collaborative dynamics? And how do these changes in collaboration affect cognitive mobility? Does spatial mobility between national higher education and science systems create necessities or opportunity structures for cognitive mobility?

We welcome contributions from different disciplinary backgrounds on cognitive mobility, both conceptual and empirical. We are also interested in contributions focusing on the interplay between cognitive and spatial or virtual mobility. Moreover, presentations of newly available data and methods in research on mobilities are welcome. Possible questions are, but are not limited to:

- How can cognitive mobility be conceptualized, measured, and analysed in connection with other mobilities?
- What determines cognitive mobility of academics throughout their careers?
- Which challenges are associated with cognitive mobility – whether in connection with other mobilities or not.

To address these and related questions, the DZHW Research Cluster “[Mobility and migration-related inequalities](#)” together with the BMBF funded project “[InterMO](#)” organises an online workshop on November 14th and 15th, 2022.

Date

November 14th and 15th, 2022

Format

Online workshop

Submissions

Researchers are invited to submit an abstract for a presentation in English. Please submit your abstracts of about 250 words to Michael Grüttner (gruettner@dzhw.eu) and Clemens Blümel (bluemel@dzhw.eu) by September 30th, 2022.

Host institution

German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (DZHW)

Coordination team

Clemens Blümel

bluemel@dzhw.eu

Michael Grüttner

gruettner@dzhw.eu