The individual sub-projects are each allocated to two of the four thematic strands which represent central configurations of power and domination.

Conflict and Consent

The projects allocated to thematic strand A are devoted to the relationship between ruler, elites and ruled that oscillates between the two poles of conflict and consent. All projects examine the strategies that served to legitimise and stabilise existing configurations of power and domination. The thematic focuses of the case studies include how power and domination are communicated and legitimised through material resources, personal ties, sacrality and gender.

Personality and Transpersonality

The projects located in strand B examine how power and domination were shaped privately and publicly, departing from the observation that power and domination are always bound to persons. This project strand examines themes of presence and absence, regency and representation, as well as institutional and personal ties. It further investigates how individual rulers made power and domination palpable to the ruled and implemented ruler-ship beyond their immediate surroundings.

Criticism and Idealisation

The projects located in strand D examine central contemporaneous criteria according to which power and domination were exercised, recognised or disputed, focusing on self-representation in the mise-en-scène of the court or in panegyric texts, as well as public discourse concerning power and domination.

Thematic Strands

Centre and Periphery

The projects allocated to thematic strand C focus on spatial dimensions of power and domination between centre and periphery. The centre is constituted by the ruler and expands outwards to his court and place of residence, whereas the periphery is constituted by a growing distance from the centre, first spatial and then structural. This project strand focuses on communication routes and networks, residence formation and itinerant kingship, delegation of power, or securing the loyalty of peripheral populations.

The SFB 1167 is composed of projects in the following institutions and subjects of the Faculty of Arts:

Thematic Strands

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CRC/SFB 1167

Macht und Herrschaft – Vormoderne Konfigurationen in transkultureller Perspektive

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Sub-Projects

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, AMERICAN, AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Precarious divinity: The Roman emperor’s self-definition as God in relation to competing strategies of legitimising Herrschaft; main investigator: Prof. Dr. Konrad Voßing (Ancient History)

The king’s image. Machtherrschaft in the seals and coins of the East Frankish and German kings and emperors (936–1250); main investigator: Prof. Dr. Andrea Stiedl (Bremer (Pre- and Protohistoric Archaeology)

Samodöschy in eindendacharya: Creating the demand for centralist autocratic Herrschaft in the “time of troubles”: the Russian tsars, with special regard to the election and appointment procedures of Boris Godunov and Michail Romanov; main investigator: Prof. Dr. Dittmar Dahlmann (Eastern European History)

Consensus and fidelitas: Personal and transpersonal elements of royal Machtherrschaft in the East Frankish-German realm; main investigators: Prof. Dr. Matthias Becker/Dr. Linda Dahmen (Medieval History)

The king as tyrant. Royal Herrschaft in England through the lens of criticism (1066–1216); main investigator: PD Dr. Altheidis Plassmann (Medieval History)

Macht and Herrschaft in the novelistic wisdom literature of Castle (1250–1350); main investigator: Prof. Dr. Mechthild Albert (Romance Studies)

The king as guest – House and Herrschaft in secular wall painting; main investigator: Prof. Dr. Harald Wolter-von dem Knesebeck (Art History)

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

De projects

The two bodies of Horus. Royal ideology and its manifestation in the formative period of Egyptian kingship; main investigator: Prof. Dr. Ludwig D. Morenz (Egyptology)

Steppe empires in Inner Asia in a comparative perspective – Protection and practice of Herrschaft as recorded in monuments and written sources; main investigator: Prof. Dr. Jan Bemmann (Pre- and Protohistoric Archaeology)

Local practice of Herrschaft in rural areas of the Lower Rhine region from late antiquity to the high Middle Ages; main investigator: Dr. des. Timo Bremer (Pre- and Protohistoric Archaeology)

Kings and emperors. Machtherrschaft in medieval German literature; main investigator: Prof. Dr. Elko Brüggen (German Medieval Studies)

Complaining about time out of joint. Inverted pretensions to Herrschaft in German texts of the medieval and early modern periods; main investigator: Prof. Dr. Karina Kellermann (German Medieval Studies)

DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE AND CULTURE

Consensus and fidelitas: Personal and transpersonal elements of royal Machtherrschaft in the East Frankish-German realm; main investigators: Prof. Dr. Matthias Becker/Dr. Linda Dahmen (Medieval History)

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DEPARTMENT OF ORIENTAL AND ASIAN STUDIES

Royal Herrschaft in medieval Kashmir according to Kalhana’s Rājatarāṅgiṇī; main investigator: Prof. Dr. Konrad Klaus (Indology)

Macht and Herrschaft in Indo-Persian historiographical texts from the Delhi sultanate period (1206–1256); main investigator: Prof. Dr. Stephan Conermann (Islamic Studies)

Imperial representation and ceremonial at the Mughal court; main investigator: Prof. Dr. Eva Ortmann (Islamic Studies)

Reproduction of elites through delegation and differentiation of royal Herrschaft in medieval Japan; main investigators: PD Dr. Deftev Taranczewski/Jun. Prof. Daniel F. Schley (Japanese Studies)

Reception of delegations as an instrument of legitimisation and expression of Herrschaft; main investigator: Prof. Dr. Ralph Kauz (Chinese Studies)

Securing governance through consent: The institutionalisation of political criticism in early China; main investigator: Prof. Dr. Christian Schwermann (Chinese Studies)

Centre or periphery: Herrschaft between imaginary and real order in Tibetan societies exemplified through the Namgyal dynasty of Ladakh (16th–19th century); main investigator: Prof. Dr. Peter Schwimmer (Tibetan Studies)

DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY

The Collaborative Research Centre (CRC/SFB) 1167 “Macht and Herrschaft – Premodern Configurations in a Transcultural Perspective” supported by the German Research Foundation (DFG), has been investigating premodern socio-political forms of power and domination in Asia, Europe and northern Africa from a transcultural perspective since summer 2010. To better understand the processes now underway under the term “globalisation”, the centre will study deep societal structures in cultural regions within and beyond Europe. It will reveal the interdependencies between “lived”, factually established orders, and how they were perceived, depicted and commented on. A central aim of the SFB’s work is to re-examine the theoretical terms “power” (Macht) and “domination” (Herrschaft) in order to challenge the Eurocentrism adhering to these analytical categories and to describe them phenomenologically. The negotiation of power and domination will be examined from a wider temporal and spatial perspective and in relation to the factors that enabled, legitimised and condition them, as well as in relation to the importance of personal, transpersonal and transtemporal elements in political organisations.

With over 50 members of various so-called “minor subjects” of the Humanities (Archaeology, Art History, Egyptology, English Studies, German Studies, History, Indian Studies, Islamic Studies, Japanese Studies, Romance Studies, Chinese Studies and Tibetan Studies), this interdisciplinary project covers a wide spectrum of forms of power and domination in pre-modern orders. Yet the richness of the SFB’s potential research outcomes stems not only from its disciplinary diversity but also from the range of material sources and archives it draws on, from splendid ancient Egyptian stone reliefs, to medieval memorials and murals, to the Tibetan royal chronicles of the 17th century.