

## **Walther Rathenau Kolleg: Liberalismus und Demokratie (Liberalism and Democracy, WRK)**

The WRK, named after the industrialist and Foreign Minister of Germany during the Weimar Republic Walther Rathenau (1867-1922), is an interdisciplinary PhD Research Group funded by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation and affiliated to the Moses Mendelssohn Center for European-Jewish Studies Potsdam (MMZ). Distinguished Professors of the University of Potsdam, the FU, HU and TU Berlin are involved.

Established in May 2010, WRK grants eighteen PhD scholarships. The scholars and fellows take part in a coordinated course program, a colloquium and working groups.

### **Thematic Focus**

WRK promotes excellent PhD projects focusing on the topics of liberalism and pro-democracy movement since the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. This includes all forms of Jewish movements, Christian-Jewish and German-Jewish relations, the specific perception of the “Jewish question”, anti-Semitism and counter-reactions to anti-Semitism.

#### Fields of research are:

1. Crisis and Future of the democratic constitutional state
2. Continuities and Discontinuities of European Post-War Liberalism
3. Rise and development of Civic Women’s Movement in context of the liberalization of European Societies
4. Liberal-Democratic Cultures of Remembrance in a European comparison
5. Jewish Biographies in liberal Movements

WRK puts a main focus on History, Jewish Studies, Literature and Cultural History, but is also open for scholars of Sociology, Political Science/Theory, European Anthropology, and other related disciplines.

### **Contact Information**

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