

Geographies of Academic Travel from Heidelberg and Emerging Research Cultures across the Sciences and the Humanities, 1751-1810

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This paper discusses the development of academic travel, research practices, and the provision of expertise by professors appointed to the old University of Heidelberg in the six decades before the foundation of the new University of Berlin in 1809/10. Adopting a historical geographical research perspective interested in the spatial relations of academic work, I examine the motivations, destinations, and outcomes of professionally motivated journeys and how these facilitated or hindered the emergence of modern research practices in the evolving disciplines. Based on archival and documentary research, I argue that the foundations of the rise of the University of Heidelberg to one of the world's leading research universities around 1900, and the institution's disciplinary specialisations, were laid by Catholic and Reformed professors travelling beyond Heidelberg in the era of a small and conflicted, but socially remarkably inclusive, tolerant university.

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