The goal of this workshop is to familiarize doctoral students with the issues, challenges and possibilities inherent in transnational history. Starting with an attempt at defining ‘transnational history’, a number of aspects peculiar to transnational history will be analyzed and discussed. The special obstacles of constructing working bibliographies in the respective national language groups in advance of archival research, the hunt for useful and accessible archives, and the particular logistical obstacles of transnational study will receive detailed attention. Two case studies of the construction of transnational research projects will then demonstrate the actual workings of transnational historical research, along with the countless obstacles encountered and solutions (often) found along the road to the final product.

Programme:

**Session 1: What is Transnational History?** What are the characteristics of transnational history? How does it differ from comparative history? The promises and perils of transnational history. Introductory discussion of key concepts and issues.

**Session 2: Constructing Bibliographies.** Difficulties in finding published sources in ‘foreign’ countries when still abroad. How to build up a data base. How to get a hold of relevant books and journals before and/or during extended stays abroad.

**Session 3: Discovering Archives.** Varieties of archival cultures in different countries. Public and private archives. How to find archives. How to gain access to archives. Are there national peculiarities in archival cultures?

**Session 4: Practical Issues.** How to survive with limited initial knowledge (sometimes ‘just’ reading knowledge of relevant languages) and not look ridiculous. Special logistical problems of transnational research. The question of finances. The question of housing. When to put an end to different stages of research.

**Session 5: Case Study I: European Socialism in the 1930s.** The fashioning of a doctoral research project. Based on actual experience by the Workshop Tutor when working on his dissertation: “European socialists respond to fascism: The drive towards unity, radicalisation and strategic innovation in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany and Spain, 1933-1936.”

**Session 6: Case Study II: Progressive Catholicism in the Long Sixties.** The contours of an ongoing research project. Based on current experiences of Workshop Tutor in fashioning his “The Spirit of Vatican II: Social Movements and Radical Catholicism in Western Europe, 1959-1980.”