

**Stellungnahme zum
Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin (ZMO)**

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Vorbemerkung

Die Einrichtungen der Forschung und der wissenschaftlichen Infrastruktur, die sich in der Leibniz-Gemeinschaft zusammengeschlossen haben, werden von Bund und Ländern wegen ihrer überregionalen Bedeutung und eines gesamtstaatlichen wissenschaftspolitischen Interesses gemeinsam außerhalb einer Hochschule gefördert. Turnusmäßig, spätestens alle sieben Jahre, überprüfen Bund und Länder, ob die Voraussetzungen für die gemeinsame Förderung einer Leibniz-Einrichtung noch erfüllt sind.¹

Die wesentliche Grundlage für die Überprüfung in der Gemeinsamen Wissenschaftskonferenz ist regelmäßig eine unabhängige Evaluierung durch den Senat der Leibniz-Gemeinschaft. Die Stellungnahmen des Senats bereitet der Senatsausschuss Evaluierung vor. Für die Bewertung einer Einrichtung setzt der Ausschuss Bewertungsgruppen mit unabhängigen, fachlich einschlägigen Sachverständigen ein.

Vor diesem Hintergrund besuchte eine Bewertungsgruppe am 30. Juni und 1. Juli 2022 das ZMO in Berlin. Ihr stand eine vom ZMO erstellte Evaluierungsunterlage zur Verfügung. Die wesentlichen Aussagen dieser Unterlage sind in der Darstellung (Anlage A dieser Stellungnahme) zusammengefasst. Die Bewertungsgruppe erstellte im Anschluss an den Besuch den Bewertungsbericht (Anlage B). Das ZMO nahm dazu Stellung (Anlage C). Der Senat der Leibniz-Gemeinschaft verabschiedete am 21. März 2023 auf dieser Grundlage die vorliegende Stellungnahme. Der Senat dankt den Mitgliedern der Bewertungsgruppe und des Senatsausschusses Evaluierung für ihre Arbeit.

1. Beurteilung und Empfehlungen

Der Senat schließt sich den Beurteilungen und Empfehlungen der Bewertungsgruppe an. Das ZMO forscht zu Geschichte und Gesellschaften islamisch geprägter Regionen insbesondere im Nahen Osten, Afrika, Süd- und Südostasien in ihren globalen Bezügen und Verflechtungen. Mit einem historischen Fokus auf die Zeit seit dem 18. Jahrhundert untersuchen die Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler kulturelle, soziale, politische und wirtschaftliche Entwicklungen sowie die Wissensproduktion über muslimische Gesellschaften. Am ZMO sind verschiedene geistes- und sozialwissenschaftliche Disziplinen vertreten, insbesondere Geschichte, Sozialanthropologie, Ethnologie und Islamwissenschaften, daneben weitere benachbarte Fächer.

Die Arbeiten des Zentrums sind im Rahmen des laufenden Forschungsprogramms in derzeit vier thematische Forschungsfelder gruppiert. Es werden sehr gute **Arbeitsergebnisse** zu einer großen Bandbreite von Themen erzielt und überzeugend international sichtbar publiziert. Dies geschieht vielfach via *Open Access* und erfreulicherweise oft auch in den Sprachen der Untersuchungsregion. Die Transferaktivitäten des ZMO sind überzeugend und vielfältig, sie reichen von Filmproduktionen und Ausstellungen bis hin zu einem intensiven Engagement in der politischen Bildung. Die Leistungen aller vier thematisch definierten Forschungsfelder werden als „sehr gut“ bewertet. In einem weiteren Bereich werden umfangreiche und ambitionierte Vorhaben zu unterschiedlichen Themen

¹ Ausführungsvereinbarung zum GWK-Abkommen über die gemeinsame Förderung der Mitgliedseinrichtungen der Wissenschaftsgemeinschaft Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz e. V.

gebündelt, die über wettbewerblich eingeworbene Drittmittel wie inzwischen zwei *ERC consolidator grants* gefördert werden.

Das ZMO blickt auf eine über 100-jährige **Geschichte** zurück. Seit 1995 ist es unter dem heutigen Namen eine von drei Berliner Forschungseinrichtungen in der gemeinsamen Trägerschaft des Vereins "Geisteswissenschaftliche Zentren Berlin" (GWZ e.V.). Nach der Wende erfolgte die Finanzierung der Forschungsarbeiten vorwiegend über befristete Projektförderungen, bis das Zentrum 2017 als Leibniz-Einrichtung in die gemeinsame Bund-Länder-Förderung aufgenommen wurde.

Auf Empfehlung des Wissenschaftsrats wurde 2018 neben der **Leitung** eine zweite W3-Professur zur gemeinsamen Berufung mit der Freien Universität Berlin eingerichtet. Die Direktion des ZMO umfasst somit nun neben geisteswissenschaftlicher auch sozialwissenschaftliche Kompetenz sowie weiterhin eine stellvertretende Direktorin für den Bereich Wissenstransfer. Außerdem wurden zusätzlich unbefristete Leitungspositionen für die vier Forschungsfelder geschaffen.

Die Aufnahme in die Leibniz-Gemeinschaft führte zu einer starken Erhöhung der institutionellen **Förderung**, die mit inzwischen 2,7 Mio. € (2021) für die derzeitigen Aufgaben auskömmlich ist. Zusätzlich werden Drittmittel in oft hochkompetitiven Verfahren eingeworben. In den Jahren 2019 bis 2021 lagen die Drittmittelinwerbungen mit im Schnitt 1,7 Mio. € pro Jahr (38 % des Gesamthaushalts) sogar über der vom ZMO vorgesehenen Quote von 33 %.

Vor dem Hintergrund dieser positiven Entwicklungen wird das Zentrum ermutigt, sich von strukturellen Anforderungen zu lösen, wie sie in der Zeit der zeitlich befristeten Förderung als Projektverbund notwendigerweise zu erfüllen waren, und künftig stärker als bisher **langfristige Perspektiven** zu definieren:

Es sollte seine derzeit vier thematischen Forschungsfelder, wie im Bewertungsbericht näher ausgeführt, inhaltlich öffnen und dort verstärkt Räume für eine noch intensivere Theorie- und Methodendiskussion schaffen. Dies würde es auch ermöglichen, die ausgezeichneten drittmittelgeförderten Vorhaben und Synthesarbeiten in die Forschungsfelder zu integrieren, statt sie in einem fünften Bereich zu sammeln.

Über seine sehr guten Forschungsarbeiten hinaus gelingt es dem ZMO, durch seine vielfältigen globalen Kollaborationsbeziehungen Akteure aus sehr unterschiedlichen Kontexten produktiv zusammenzubringen und so die interdisziplinäre Arbeit zu muslimischen Gesellschaften voranzutreiben. Damit erbringt es wertvolle Leistungen im Sinne einer sozialen Forschungsinfrastruktur, die es zukünftig noch mehr stärken und durch eine Verankerung im Programmbudget abbilden sollte.

Das ZMO verfügt über eine umfangreiche Katalog- und Sondersammlung mit vielfach unikalen Beständen. Für die Archivierung der wertvollen und stetig wachsenden **Sammlungsbestände** müssen Leitung und Aufsichtsgremium zügig eine Lösung finden, die heutigen Standards entspricht. Sollte ein in der Institutsstellungnahme angekündigtes Gutachten die von der Leitung präferierte archivgerechte Unterbringung im ZMO als nicht möglich erachten, muss das Land Berlin anderweitig dafür Sorge tragen, z. B. durch Überführung als Depositum in ein geeignetes Archiv. An die Sammlungsbestände

anschließende Planungen des Zentrums, im Bereich der *Digital Humanities* eine dauerhafte Erhöhung seiner institutionellen Förderung zu beantragen, wurden positiv bewertet. Im Falle einer Antragstellung sollten die Hinweise der Sachverständigen berücksichtigt werden.

Leitung und **Gremien** des ZMO nehmen ihre Aufgaben sehr gut und engagiert wahr. Der Wissenschaftliche Beirat bildet dabei in seiner Besetzung die Breite der am Zentrum verfolgten Aktivitäten in Forschung und Transfer hervorragend ab. Derzeit ist er jedoch ausschließlich europäisch besetzt. Künftig sollte vor dem Hintergrund der übergreifenden Zielsetzungen des ZMO darauf geachtet werden, verstärkt Mitglieder auch aus den Forschungsregionen zu berufen.

Dem **wissenschaftlichen Personal** in frühen Karrierephasen bietet das ZMO ein hervorragendes Arbeitsumfeld und sehr gute institutionelle Einbindung, etwa über ein Mentoring-Programm. Das Zentrum setzt sich mit ausgezeichnetem Erfolg für die Gleichstellung der Geschlechter ein. 2021 waren 51 % der wissenschaftlich Beschäftigten Frauen und sogar 62,5 % des leitenden Personals Wissenschaftlerinnen. 21 der 37 Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler kamen aus dem Ausland. Die damit einhergehende große ethnische, sprachliche und kulturelle Diversität hat das Zentrum mit seinem *Equal Opportunities and Gender Equality Concept* gut im Blick.

Das ZMO unterhält enge **Kooperationsbeziehungen** zu Berliner Universitäten. Über die beiden gemeinsamen Berufungen mit der Freien Universität Berlin hinaus betreibt es eine Graduiertenschule und zahlreiche bedeutende gemeinsame Projekte mit der Freien und der Humboldt-Universität Berlin. Das Zentrum ist zudem in nationalen Forschungsverbänden aktiv und unterhält ausgezeichnete Partnerschaften mit Akteuren aus dem Untersuchungsraum.

2. Zur Stellungnahme des ZMO

Der Senat begrüßt, dass das ZMO beabsichtigt, die Empfehlungen und Hinweise aus dem Bewertungsbericht bei seiner weiteren Arbeit zu berücksichtigen.

3. Förderempfehlung

Der Senat der Leibniz-Gemeinschaft empfiehlt Bund und Ländern, das ZMO als Einrichtung der Forschung und der wissenschaftlichen Infrastruktur auf der Grundlage der Ausführungsvereinbarung WGL weiter zu fördern.

Annex A: Status report

Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin (ZMO)

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1. Key data, structure and tasks

Key data

Year established:	1991 (as “Forschungsschwerpunkt Moderner Orient”)
Admission to joint funding by Federal and <i>Länder</i> Governments:	2017
Admission to the Leibniz Association:	2017
Last statement by the German Council of Science and Humanities:	2016
Legal form:	Non-profit association (<i>e. V.</i>)
Responsible department at <i>Länder</i> level:	Senate Department for Higher Education and Research, Health, Long-Term Care and Gender Equality
Responsible department at Federal level:	Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

Total budget (2021)

- € 2.65m institutional funding
- € 2.13m revenue from project grants
- € 0 revenue from services

Number of staff (2021)

- 37 individuals in research (32.2 FTE – and 2 fellowships, 7 scholarships)
- 4 individuals in science support staff (2.8 FTE – library, IT)
- 13 individuals in science support staff (7.2 FTE – administration)

Mission and structure

According to its mission statement, the “*Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) conducts research into the history and society of Islamic regions of the world. The focus is on interdependent regions in the Middle East, Africa, Central, South and Southeast Asia, as well as Europe (including South-South and South-North relations). In the current phase of globalisation, a historical understanding of these connections is vitally important. For this reason, researchers from various disciplinary perspectives examine cultural, social, political, and economic processes since the 18th century. ZMO also conducts research on the production of knowledge about Muslim societies.*”

Research at the centre is carried out in five research units. In four of these, temporary themes are defined for periods of 5-6 years based on changing research programmes. Ad-

ditionally, a permanent fifth research unit focuses on crosscutting and exploratory research (including larger third-party-funded projects that supplement the overall programme).

Together with another two Berlin-based centres of the Leibniz Association (Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics – ZAS and Leibniz Centre for Literary and Cultural Research – ZfL), ZMO is a member of the *Geisteswissenschaftliche Zentren Berlin e. V.* (GWZ), a non-profit association that provides a shared administrative framework and supervisory board (*Kuratorium*) for all three centres.

2. Overall concept and core results

The core aim of research at ZMO is to understand the changing conditions and challenges in Muslim societies of the Middle East, Africa, Eurasia, and South and Southeast Asia since the 16th century, with a focus on the past two centuries and the present. The centre follows an interdisciplinary approach from a translocal perspective and puts a particular focus on intra- and interregional entanglements. Besides history and social/cultural anthropology, other relevant disciplines are area studies, Islamic studies, human geography, and political science. Special consideration is given to theories and concepts originating from the regions on which research is conducted.

An overarching **research programme** defines the wider scope of scholarly engagement at ZMO. Every 5-6 years, a new programme is set up in dialogue between the directorate and the heads of the research units. It provides a framework for the definition of more specific themes within the individual research units, and allows for crosscutting theoretical and methodological engagement.

The research programme between 2014 and 2019 was entitled “**Muslim Worlds – World of Islam?**”. It investigated the challenges of everyday life as they are experienced by people in the different societies of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East in the context of tensions between normative notions of being Muslim and other, competing normative orders. The reach of religious references and discourses was explored in four research units (“Progress: Ideas, Actors and Symbols”, “Politics of Resources”, “Trajectories of Lives and Knowledge” and “Cities as Laboratories of Change”). Each aimed to discover strategies and practices in the respective contexts.

In January 2020, a new research programme was taken up, “**Thinking through Translocal Entanglements: Perspectives from Asia, Africa, and the Middle East**”, which evolved out of the previous programme and is scheduled to be pursued until 2024, probably followed by a second phase until 2029. Focusing on Muslim regions and societies from the 16th until the 20th century, it examines the history and present of dynamic socio-economic and cultural trends and analyses resulting local and translocal practices against the backdrop of globalising networks. The intention is to build on three core findings from previous years, namely:

- the multi-centric development of competing and often conflicting religious and non-religious normativities and everyday realities;
- the constant reconfiguration and expansion of translocal communicative spaces through new waves of migration and novel communication channels;
- the complicated relationships between globalising processes and local quests for identity, often coupled with an explicit desire and/or demand for more just social and political relations.

ZMO currently hosts **five active research units**, four out of which are dedicated to specific topics related to the research programme:

- Research unit “Age and Generation” (emerged from the former unit “Progress: Ideas, Actors and Symbols”, 2014-2019), see 7.1
 - Research unit “Environment and Justice” (developed out of the former unit “The Politics of Resources”, 2014-2019), see 7.2
 - Research unit “Representations of the Past as a Mobilizing Force” (continuation of the former unit “Trajectories of Lives and Knowledge”, 2014-2019), see 7.3
 - Research unit “Contested Religion and Intellectual Culture” (newly established unit emerging from Leibniz Junior Research Group), see 7.4
- Research unit “Cities as Laboratories of Change”* (2014-2019 without follow-up unit after 2020), see 7.5
- Research unit “Cross-cutting, Exploratory, and Supplementary Research”, see 7.6

Results

ZMO was asked to identify up to ten most important results in the fields of research, research infrastructures and knowledge transfer since the last evaluation:

Research

1. Publication of **Kai Kresse, *Swahili Muslim Publics and Postcolonial Experience in Coastal Kenya*** (Indiana University Press 2018 and, as an African edition, Mkuki na Nyota/Dar es Salaam 2019). The monograph combines ethnographic and textual case studies of internal debates among Swahili-speaking Muslims on the Kenyan coast, documenting their sense of political marginalisation. A Swahili translation is forthcoming with Mkuki na Nyota.
2. Establishment of the **Leibniz Junior Research Group REMOBOKO** in 2018, leading to the research unit “Contested Religion and Intellectual Culture” in 2020. The project is seen as exemplary in its organisation of international cooperation with West Africa and also stands for the promotion of scholars at ZMO: The project leader completed his *Habilitation* in Vienna in 2021 and is now an Associate Professor at Abdou Moumouni University of Niamey (Niger).
3. Conclusion of the research programme “Muslim Worlds – World of Islam?”, leading to an open-access volume edited by **Jeanine Dağyeli, Claudia Ghrawi & Ulrike Freitag, *Claiming and Making Muslim Worlds. Religion and Society in the Context***

- of the Global* (De Gruyter 2021). The publication features key topics, on-going debates and results of the research.
4. Publication of **Ulrike Freitag, *A History of Jeddah. The Gate to Mecca in the 19th and 20th Centuries*** (Cambridge University Press 2020). The volume comprises an urban history from a global history perspective. It was inspired by work done in the research unit “Cities as Laboratories of Change”. An Arabic translation is forthcoming with the King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives (DARAH).
 5. Publication of **Stefan B. Kirmse, *The Lawful Empire. Legal Change and Cultural Diversity in Late Tsarist Russia*** (Cambridge University Press 2019). The book on Muslim Tatars in the Russian Empire focuses not so much on their religious personas but rather on their multiple life worlds. It has opened up a new research focus on ‘minority’ rights between and across empires. A Russian translation is forthcoming.
 6. Publication of **Ali Raza, *Revolutionary Pasts: Communist Internationalism in Colonial India*** (Cambridge University Press 2020). The book comprises results from work done in the research unit “Trajectories of Lives and Knowledge” and was shortlisted for the Royal Historical Society’s Gladstone Book Prize 2021. Its author now holds an Associate Professorship in Lahore (India).
 7. Publication of a special issue of ***Geschichte und Gesellschaft* 3/2019, edited by Nils Riecken & Heike Liebau** with contributions by most members of the research unit “Trajectories of Lives and Knowledge”. It focuses on conceptual concerns with the interrelation of subjectivity, temporality, and the social practices of knowledge production when developing meaningful stories about the translocal lives of subjects and objects beyond established societal units.

Research infrastructure

8. Initiatives towards **Open Science**, including the organisation of 150 out of a total of 600 boxes of research material to be available digitally, a co-operation with the German Digital Library to share metadata, and the implementation of a new repository.

Knowledge transfer

9. Organisation of the **film festival *anthropoSCENE***, curated by Dr Ali Nobil Ahmad in 2017, including screenings, podium discussions, interviews with filmmakers, and commentaries by ZMO scholars.
10. **Online exhibition *Beginnings and Memories*** and **animated film *Blickwechsel*** (including a public debate and briefings of partners) in 2021, in cooperation with the *Berliner Landeszentrale für politische Bildung, Amal, Berlin!* and *Qantara.de*. Both products resulted from the BMBF-funded project *Normality and Crisis: Memories of Everyday Life in Syria as a Chance for a New Start in Germany*; they explore the everyday experiences of people in Syria and the ways in which these are put to use by Syrian refugees in Germany.

In the period 2019-2021, ZMO **published** an average of 7.3 monographs, 26.7 individual contributions to edited volumes, and 25 articles in peer-reviewed journals per year. Furthermore, an average of 9 articles were published in other journals. The centre also provided 4 working and discussion papers and was responsible for the editorship of an average of 9,3 edited volumes per year. Additionally, an annual average of 12.3 book reviews, 5.7 blog entries, and 9 other publications came out during the three-year-period. This last category included four documentary films, an exhibition, and contributions to the MIDA and *Beginnings and Memories* websites. An increased effort in terms of open-access between 2019 and 2021 led to a total of 154 publications in this format.

An average of 9.7 **expert reviews** per year resulted from ZMO's activities in providing expert knowledge to the media, institutions for further education, political foundations, and members of parliament.

3. Changes and planning

Development since the previous evaluation

Since January 2017, ZMO is funded as a Leibniz Institute by the German Federal and the *Länder* governments, following a positive evaluation by the German Council of Science and Humanities (*Wissenschaftsrat*). On top of the necessary administrative adjustments that were performed on the part of the GWZ, ZMO implemented a number of additional structural adjustments. In particular, a professor in anthropology was jointly appointed with Freie Universität Berlin to the position of **vice-director for research**, which was created in 2018. The centre also offered permanent contracts to its leading researchers as well as to non-academic staff.

In terms of its scientific development, ZMO holds on to its long-standing interest in trans-local entanglements and the spatial dimension of human interaction, past and present. As a second concern, it has taken up an increased engagement with thinkers and concepts from its regions of research (including post- and decolonial theory).

Starting from 2017, ZMO developed its **current new research programme** that has been in operation since 2020. This, as well as the new thematic foci which are pursued in the research units (see chapter 7), was decided upon in close cooperation of research staff, directorate and advisory board.

The centre points to the significant influence of the **COVID-19 pandemic** on the possibilities to perform anthropological as well as historical research (in the shapes of both fieldwork and archival research) in 2020 and 2021. While many of the limitations could be dealt with on the individual level, medium-term effects on research output and necessary adjustments in future budgets are expected. However, ZMO highlights that on the upside, the circumstances of the pandemic also led to an increased engagement with digital infrastructures at the centre and to the implementation of internationally inclusive formats of knowledge transfer.

Strategic work planning for the coming years

The **scientific medium-term planning** at ZMO involves two temporal horizons: One is the end of the first phase of the current research programme (2024), the other one that of a probable second phase (2029). An in-depth review of the current phase is scheduled for early 2023. This planning is based on the expected retirement of the current director at the End of March 2027, and will give the successor time to develop a new research programme in 2029.

The established long-term themes are to remain the guiding concepts for research perspectives at the centre. Beyond the individual scopes of the research units, the centre intends to jointly address cross-cutting themes in a two-year rhythm and is planning to accompany its academic work with fitting outreach activities and public events. The following topics are scheduled for the upcoming years:

- justice/injustice (2021/2022)
- political order and its limitations (2023/2024)
- regimes of knowledge (2025/2026)
- destruction and survival

Two major **structural strategic aims** are seen as decisive for future planning at ZMO:

- The research units are to be complemented by thematically focused third-party-funded projects.
- The centre is to be digitally strengthened.

Planning for additional funds deriving from institutional funding

ZMO is planning to create a new cross-cutting focus, “**Researching and Securing Cultural Traditions. The Modern Orient in the Digital Age**”, with a permanent increase of its institutional funding in order to strengthen its research as well as knowledge transfer. The aim is to implement and develop digital research approaches to cultural traditions in the Muslim world in a way that specifically strengthens ways to research the Islamic world in the research contexts of ZMO. Besides new staff focusing on research data management in general, network administration and the handling of digital media, additional postdoctoral researchers with a special focus on DH methods are to act as multipliers in each of the four regular research units.

The centre highlights four aspects in which it would profit from the new unit:

- In terms of **research**, digital methods are seen as assets in three areas: (1) they would enable the evaluation of large amounts of data in various forms (including audio and visual archives as well as texts in various scripts), (2) the digital indexing and publishing of source material could be pushed forward, and (3) digital phenomena would become research objects in themselves in all of ZMO’s research units.
- As part of the planned expansion, the centre also intends to further develop its **research data management**. For example, a strategy for professional data management

in all phases of research is to be set up while Open Access and Open Science are to be developed further.

- The process of indexing and digitising the ZMO library's **special collection** could be furthered. A digital integration of the collection and its subsequent systematic development are envisioned here.
- A system administrator and a digital media and communications officer are to strengthen ZMO's **knowledge transfer and system administration**. The former is to provide the IT skills necessary to support the latter's services in the area of digital media which bring together research, publications, internal communication and knowledge transfer. Three main goals are (1) to meet an increased demand in terms of digital methods of depiction that has arisen in research, (2) to connect with the ZMO editorial office's existing work on two Open Access publication series, and (3) to provide expertise in media design as a necessary part of various activities in knowledge transfer (supporting existing formats and developing new ones, for example in Social Media and digital exhibitions).

8 new positions (7.5 FTE) are to be created:

- 1 head of digital humanities (E 14)
- 1 research data manager (E 13)
- 3 digital humanities researchers (E 13)
- 1 system administrator (E 11)
- 1 digital media officer (E 10)
- 0.5 digital media curator (E 10)

Additionally, ZMO aims to provide

- 1.5 research stipends for work on the special collection
- 3 student assistants at 80 hours/month.

Further costs are foreseen for **equipment** and **material resources** (€137k/2025, €152k/2026, afterwards €112k/year).

"Extraordinary item of expenditure": summary of funds planning

	2025	2026	2027	Permanently
Own funds + additional funds = "extraordinary item of expenditure"	751 k€	1.014 k€	993 k€	993 k€
Own funds from existing funding by institution (at least 3 % of core budget)	89 k€	91 k€	94 k€	94 k€
Additional funds of institutional funding	662 k€	923 k€	899k€	899 k€

4. Controlling and quality management

Facilities, equipment and funding

Funding

Between 2019 and 2021, ZMO had an average annual **revenue** of €4.4m. Institutional funding amounted to about €2.7m thereof. A further €1.7m per year on average, corresponding to 38 % of the overall budget, were acquired through project grants. Minor additional revenues were generated from publications (€0.2k in 2019).

Until 2019, **third-party funding** still included funds provided by the BMBF for ZMO's previous research programme. Stemming from the time before the centre became funded as a Leibniz Institute, these led to an extraordinarily high share of third-party funding until that year. In the medium term, the centre aims for roughly 33 % of its total budget to come from third-party funding. In the years 2019-2021, the most important source for project grants were foundations, which provided 23.5 % of that type of revenue (69.4 % VW-Foundation, 15.6 % Thyssen Foundation, 12.4 % Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and 2.6 % others), followed by the German Research Foundation (DFG, 22.9 %), the Federal and *Länder* Governments (22.3 %), the EU (15.9 %), and the Leibniz Association (14.5 %).

Facilities and equipment

Since 1997, ZMO is located at the "**Mittelhof**", a historical building located in Berlin Nikolassee, together with the *Historische Kommission Berlin-Brandenburg* (HiKo). The centre currently commands a total of 556.7m² of space there, plus a conference room and an entrance hall which are used jointly with HiKo. While some of the facilities, like the conference room, have recently been upgraded with new equipment, others are in need for renovation according to ZMO. This is especially the case for the sanitary facilities on the ground floor. Also, the centre points out a current lack of functional meeting rooms due to fire protection restrictions.

The ZMO **library**, which is hosted on the premises, holds approximately 85.000 volumes and 60 periodicals. Additionally, the library provides material stored on various types of media as well as early modern manuscripts. An extensive special collection stemming from bequests, donations, permanent loans, and the acquisitions of the centre's researchers is seen as a heart piece. This collection is currently being integrated into the joint library network's (GBV) repository solution 'MyCore/Reposis' and is already partly accessible through repositorium.zmo.de.

Information Technology

ZMO's **IT concept** includes a redundant server structure. Data storage is performed in a system based on redundancy as well. It uses two separate servers that synchronise each other and ensures an additional backup.

A **security concept** defines three firewall-protected security zones and separated WLAN-networks. Software as well as staff training are provided to prevent security breaches.

Organisational and operational structure

As a member of the GWZ, ZMO shares its **administrative director** with two other Berlin-based Leibniz centres. The GWZ's general meeting and its board of trustees oversee all three centres.

ZMO's academic work is headed by a **directorate** consisting of the scientific director, two vice directors (one for research, one for knowledge transfer) and a research coordinator. Both the scientific director and the vice-director for research are jointly appointed with Freie Universität Berlin. The directorate meets weekly and decides on most organisational and administrative questions concerning the centre. The director's vote is decisive in cases of disagreement, and she is also in charge of ZMO's academic focus and overall development.

Along with the vice director for research, the director engages with overarching theoretical questions. Furthermore, she is responsible for historically oriented research, while the vice director for research is responsible for anthropological work at ZMO. The vice director for knowledge transfer is in charge of public relations and the coordination of activities in knowledge transfer. The research coordinator oversees the development and preparation of strategic applications for third-party funding in consultation with the other members of the directorate.

An **extended directorate** additionally includes the heads of the research units, who are responsible for academic matters within their respective units. In monthly meetings the extended directorate discusses all relevant questions at ZMO, including strategic developments, future cooperation and applications for third-party funding. The heads of major third-party-funded projects, a representative of the works council and a member of the equal opportunities team are present in these meetings.

A representative of the works council and the equal opportunities team is also always consulted about major structural decisions and the selection of new staff. An external ombudsperson and deputy ombudsperson can be approached in cases of academic misconduct and other conflicts. ZMO's different status groups can elect spokespersons to represent their interests.

Each **research unit** is intended to be composed of 5-10 members and two student assistants. Third-party-funded postdocs and associated research fellows supplement the units. Each research unit organises regular internal meetings every two weeks, as well as thematic days. Every two weeks, all ZMO researchers convene for a project meeting. They also gather in the monthly colloquium and the annual Fellows' Retreat Days. Additionally, the units regularly organise joint workshops, publications or academic events.

Quality Management

The centre has established a set of instruments including external as well as internal mechanisms in order to monitor its strategic development and its individual research projects. Researchers have to subscribe to the **rules of good scientific practice** as specified

by the Leibniz Association and the DFG, as well as the Leibniz Codex. Additionally, the centre has adopted its own “Procedures in cases of suspected violations of good academic practice at ZMO”.

For internal **quality control**, research approaches and results (often in the shape of publication drafts) are regularly discussed critically within each research unit, in the centre-wide project meetings, and at the annual retreat. Additionally, all employees participate in an annual two-on-one progress review with the director or one of the vice directors and the head of their research unit. According to the centre, the internal and external quality control for publications is further ensured by predominantly publishing in peer-reviewed publications and providing double reviews for in-house publications.

In terms of **project grants**, researchers who plan to apply for third-party funding within the framework of ZMO receive detailed feedback and advice from the research coordinator as well as from other senior scholars with the relevant expertise.

ZMO often collects politically sensitive or private data in its research regions and therefore deems it especially important to handle this data appropriately, also to ensure the safety of the involved researchers and partners. All researchers at the centre must abide by a **guideline on research data management** which was passed in 2019.

Beyond the above-mentioned qualitative instruments of quality management, regular **data queries** were used for different reports until 2020 as a tool for quantitatively measuring progress at the centre. Since then, academic staff have been reporting their data through the new website’s content management system.

Computers and other equipment are regularly updated and replaced.

Quality management by advisory boards and supervisory board

The centre’s **scientific advisory board** is composed of academics as well as representatives of the media and public institutions working in ZMO’s field of expertise. Members are appointed by the GWZ board of trustees (see below) upon proposal by ZMO. Following Leibniz standards, the scientific advisory board is to critically assess the work accomplished at the centre as well as its research plans and strategic choices (including future planning as well as staffing questions). It also examines the research and cost plans as detailed in the annual programme budget. Furthermore, it discusses policy documents and centre guidelines, and it performs an audit of ZMO in-between evaluations.

ZMO shares its **board of trustees** with two other Leibniz centres through the GWZ. The board meets biannually and is composed of representatives of academic institutions and scientists from the fields of all three centres. It is presided over by a representative of the State of Berlin (with a deputy representing the BMBF). One of its core responsibilities is the formal approval of the programme budgets. The directors and the heads of the advisory boards of all three centres report to the board of trustees which subsequently attests to the performance of the centres.

5. Human Resources

Leading scientific and administrative positions

The **scientific director** and the **vice-director for research** were jointly appointed with Freie Universität Berlin in accordance with the cooperation agreement between the university and the GWZ. An amendment of this has yet to be negotiated in order to fulfil Leibniz standards by ensuring the participation of a member of a Leibniz representative in the process of appointing the scientific director's successor in 2027.

The next **administrative director** is to be appointed according to Leibniz guidelines as well, in a process organised by the head of the board of trustees. The state of Berlin and the BMBF will select the new candidate together with representatives of the Leibniz Association, the works council and the equal opportunities team. The scientific directors of all three GWZ centres will be involved as guests.

Further leading positions were filled in the past in a process that had been negotiated between the advisory board, the scientific director and the works council, and was approved by the board of trustees. A detailed procedure for appointing research unit leaders in the future has since been agreed upon by the board of trustees. After an international advertisement of the position, a committee nominated by the directorate in coordination with the leaders of the research units is joined by representatives of the works council and equal opportunities team to select the most suitable candidate on the basis of a defined set of criteria.

Staff with a doctoral degree

To support ZMO's postdoctoral researchers in the best possible way at the various stages of their careers, a set of **ZMO career guidelines** were written and agreed upon in accordance with the "Leibniz Guidelines on Career Development" in 2019-2020. Postdocs have access to travel funds and financial aids for language and copy-editing as well as, where possible, publication. Furthermore, the centre offers in-house mentoring by senior colleagues to postdoctoral researchers in their early career phase. Further support is given in both formal and informal contexts, including trainings and individual advice in a variety of fields ranging from project development to career perspectives and knowledge transfer. ZMO researchers are also encouraged to participate in trainings offered by the Leibniz Association (for example, a female scholar participated in the Leibniz Mentoring programme in 2019-2020) and elsewhere.

An informal forum was founded for mutual support within the group of the centre's international scholars.

Postdoctoral researchers at ZMO are usually employed on three-year fixed-term contracts with the possibility of extension. After joining the Leibniz Association, two senior scholars beyond the extended directorate were offered tenured appointments at the centre in a process which adhered to international standards. Five postdoctoral scholars have gained further academic qualifications since 2017:

- 1 *habilitation equivalent* granted by the Italian Ministry of Education in 2017
- 1 title of *docent*, granted by the University of Tampere in 2017

- 3 *habilitations* (at Humboldt University Berlin in 2017-2018, Leipzig University in 2018 and the University of Vienna in 2021)

In the same period, 13 postdoctoral researchers were offered academic posts such as appointments to professorships, permanent positions, or leading positions in the research community.

After having benefited from ZMO's dedicated support for grant applications, three researchers received third-party funded postdoctoral grants starting in 2020 or 2021. Furthermore, ZMO scholars were successful with an application for a research project in the Leibniz Collaborative Excellence programme which took up work in 2020 and an ERC Consolidator Grant starting in 2021 (see chapter 7.6). Several other grant applications (ERC Starting Grant, VW Foundation and DFG) were submitted.

Doctoral Candidates

Doctoral students at ZMO are registered at a university of their choice, which is usually preceded by a consultation with the relevant senior scientist at the centre. Since 2020, a supervision and mentoring scheme is laid out in ZMO's "**career guidelines**" and "**PhD agreement**". These are in line with the corresponding Leibniz guidelines and include a time frame for a four-year trajectory for doctoral students within the main research programme (including a mid-term evaluation). Doctoral candidates in third-party funded positions with three-year contracts can apply for a ZMO doctoral scholarship to finance their fourth year at the centre. Doctoral students based at ZMO usually have an advisor and a mentor at the centre, and they are integrated into a research group either via one of the larger third-party funded projects or within one of the four main research units. Many are also members of university-based graduate schools, such as the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies (BGS MCS, a joint project by Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt University Berlin, and ZMO).

In addition to regular supervision, doctoral candidates participate in annual review meetings with the respective leading researcher and a member of the directorate. In the final year, this includes a confidential discussion about career planning. Doctoral students have access to a number of activities in collaboration with programmes at Berlin universities, and they are encouraged to engage in networking activities and to participate in the Leibniz PhD network. One ZMO doctoral candidate has served as the representative of doctoral candidates in Leibniz's Section A. At the centre itself, doctoral students have a dedicated interest group with an elected representative as well.

With admission to the Leibniz Association, ZMO made the strategic decision to view and position itself mainly as a post-doctoral research centre. Therefore, in terms of the **employment of doctoral students**, the focus has moved from the core budget to third-party funded projects. In recent years, four such projects were established and include a total of 12 doctoral students (8 on contracts, 4 with stipends). Doctoral researchers who are not financed through a scholarship are employed at 65 % of a full research position. The set goal is for the candidates to complete their doctoral studies at ZMO within four years. However, according to the centre, it is challenging to realise this at times (depending on factors like the disciplines involved, academic backgrounds, or personal circumstances).

Two **doctorates** were completed between 2019 and 2021, and another one was submitted in 2021 and defended in April 2022. Doctoral candidates from the recently started third-party funded projects are expected to complete their theses starting from 2022/2023.

ZMO aims to stay in touch with its **alumni** through various communication channels. Alumni also often become members of the non-profit association *Gesellschaft zur Förderung des ZMO e.V.*

Science supporting staff

While ZMO does not offer vocational qualifications, it does aim to support its **non-scientific staff** in gaining extra-occupational qualifications. Examples of such endeavours include employees at the work council, in the library and in facility management.

Additionally, the centre points out that **student research assistants** play an important role at the centre in terms of science support. This is also seen as a way to support a potential future generation of researchers at an early stage of their higher education: Between 2019 and 2021, 21 master's theses were submitted in the context of ZMO's work (17 of which had already been defended by the end of 2021). Some of the former student assistants pursue an academic career at ZMO until the postdoctoral level.

ZMO also increasingly offers **internships** to young people in an orientation phase before or shortly after taking up university studies. In the years before the pandemic, roughly four interns per year were hosted. Half of these came from abroad, and they stayed for time intervals between one and four months.

Equal opportunities and work-life balance

As of 2021, 51.2 % of the academic staff at ZMO are female. Women make up 62.5 % of the extended directorate, including the director and three out of four heads of research units.

Since 2020, an **Equal Opportunities Committee (EOC)** has taken over the responsibilities of the previous ombudsperson for diversity at ZMO. The EOC consists of two officers (a man and a woman) as well as a deputy officer (a woman) who are elected for two years. Beyond gender equality, they represent staff members from diverse ethnic, linguistic and cultural backgrounds. In collaboration with the equal opportunities officers at the two other GWZ centres, the EOC created the **ZMO Equal Opportunities and Gender Equality Concept**. It also drafted an **Equal Opportunity Plan** which was adopted in early 2022 and details concrete goals and measures. The EOC aims to accelerate colleagues' awareness of and sensitisation to issues of equality, discrimination and sexual harassment, for example through workshops and policy documents.

A **Women's Forum** is acting as an open space for women at the centre.

Dealing with permanent positions

Permanent contracts for research positions at ZMO will be awarded only after consultation with, and a written evaluation by, external reviewers. A catalogue of criteria has been developed. Due to the fact that many positions at ZMO are financed by third-party funds,

the number of permanent positions is limited. Technical staff and members of the extended directorate have permanent contracts.

6. Cooperation and environment

Cooperation with universities

ZMO has close ties to **Freie Universität Berlin** through the joint appointment of the director and the vice director for research. It also cooperates closely with **Humboldt University Berlin**, with which it shares research interests in and projects on Africa and Asia. The graduate school BGS MCS was created in cooperation with both universities as part of the excellence initiative, and ZMO academics regularly teach and supervise theses there. In recent years, individual researchers have also taught at the universities of Potsdam, Leipzig, Halle-Wittenberg and Göttingen, as well as the Alice Salomon Hochschule Berlin, Bard College Berlin, and the Barenboim-Said Akademie in Berlin. Outside Germany, courses were held at Vienna University, Tampere University, the University of Toronto, and the Turkish-German University in Istanbul.

In 2021, a total of 83 theses were **supervised** or completed under ZMO guidance, including 45 ongoing doctoral dissertations. In 2020 and 2021, an average of 38-39 hours of **teaching** per semester was performed by ZMO staff. This included joint lectures and lecture series as well as working groups.

Several **joint projects or project applications** exist with Freie Universität and Humboldt University Berlin, for example through the Berlin University Alliance. Together with the Centre for Modern Indian Studies (CEMIS) in Göttingen and the Institute of Asian and African Studies (IAAW) at Humboldt University Berlin, ZMO is also part of the DFG-funded long-term project *Modernes Indien in Deutschen Archiven* (MIDA).

Cooperation with institutes within the Leibniz Association

Upon joining the Leibniz Association in 2017, ZMO became a full member of the Leibniz Research Alliance “Historical Authenticity”. It is now involved in all three larger units of the subsequent **Leibniz Research Alliance “Value of the Past”** that took up work in 2021, with a ZMO scientist acting as the alliance’s deputy spokesperson. Within the research alliance, ZMO collaborates closely with a number of Leibniz institutes, in particular with the Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History (ZZF), the Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG), the Leibniz Institute for Educational Media (Georg Eckert Institute, GEI) and the Leibniz-Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO).

The centre also succeeded with its application for a research project in the **Leibniz Collaborative Excellence** programme (“**The History of Democracy in the Arab and Muslim World, HISDEMAB**”) in cooperation with ZZF and IEG, which took up work in 2020.

International cooperation

ZMO points to its particular success in establishing and maintaining a long-standing and diverse network of international connections. Many of its partnerships with both aca-

demic institutions and individual researchers are formalised through memoranda of understanding, some of which include financial agreements and contracts. **Memoranda of understanding** exist with 15 universities and 14 extra-university research and academic service centres, many of which are based in the regions studied at the centre. Other formalised cooperation includes an agreement with the Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science (Oman).

ZMO underlines that numerous additional valuable contacts abroad are based on **informal agreements** due to political and bureaucratic circumstances or due to concerns for the safety of local partners according to the centre. More than 30 such informal contacts exist with scholars in 14 different countries.

Institution's status in the specialist environment

Due to its distinct transregional profile and its multidisciplinary approach, the centre sees itself in a rather unique position both in the German and in the international research landscape. It names the **German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA)** in Hamburg, which covers similar regions as part of its scope but has a focus on political and economic research and policy advice, and the **German Institute for International and Security Affairs** (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik), which performs mainly tasks as a think tank, as comparable institutions. At a university level, it points to the "Africa Multiple" cluster of excellence at the **University of Bayreuth**, the CEMIS at the **University of Göttingen** and the international research-oriented universities **SOAS** (London) and **EHESS** (Paris), which all target similar regions in their research. Finally, the **Indian Ocean World Centre** (McGill, Montreal) shares an interest in the Indian Ocean world.

7. Subdivisions of the ZMO

7.1 – Progress: Ideas, Agents, Symbols // Age and Generation

[6.5 FTE, thereof 4.6 FTE Research and scientific services, 1.9 FTE Science support staff – furthermore 1.5 FTE Student assistants]

The research unit strives to answer the question of how people envisage and attempt to achieve societal advancement. The group perceives this question and notions of progress as having become central to making and imagining societies in the modern era. The research unit Progress: Ideas, Agents, Symbols (2014-2019) treated notions of progress as diverse historical formations and based its projects on a working definition of progress as a "horizon of possibilities that can be brought about by transformative action." They argued that the anticipation of a specific future and the possibility of its actualisation are shaped by the actors' awareness that the road to that future is never fully under control, but demands specific modes to navigate possible scenarios. Based on empirical insights, researchers studied the ways in which agents in predominantly Muslim settings create their own narratives of progress and follow social trajectories that are both context-specific and entangled with the wider world. The unit engaged with two interrelated issues: first, the "New Man," understood as the purposefully moulded ideal personality in colonial

and post-colonial settings and, second, the “production of possibilities” in contemporary African contexts.

The awareness that its focus on youth side-lined intergenerationality in future-making processes led to the creation of the current research unit Age and Generation. Without ignoring studies of youth, the unit now strengthens the ongoing research on the middle-aged and the elderly, exploring the ways in which state and civil society organisations have influenced conceptions of age and generation, and resulting practices.

Between 2019 and 2021, the research unit published 2 monographs (1 more had already been accepted for publication by the end of 2021), 13 contributions to edited volumes, 12 articles in peer-reviewed journals and 1 article in other journals. Additionally, it published 1 work or discussion paper. It edited 4 volumes. 1 of the publications was co-authored with scientists from other units.

Members of the scientific staff also provided a total of 4 expert reviews.

In the three-year period, 1 doctoral degree was completed, but had not yet been defended in 2021, as well as 2 academic degrees leading to doctoral work. Another 2 MA theses had been submitted but not yet defended in 2021. A researcher who was previously involved in this research unit and is now a part of research unit 4 completed his habilitation in 2021.

The institutional funding amounted to €1.7m (Ø €558k p.a.), the revenue from project grants totalled approx. €732k (Ø €244k p.a.). €303k (Ø €101k p.a.) thereof were obtained from federal and *Länder* governments, €213k (Ø €71k p.a.) from foundations (Ø €60k p.a. thereof from the Thyssen Foundation, Ø €0.5k p.a. from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and Ø €10.5k p.a. from other foundations), €121k (Ø €40k p.a.) from the DFG and €95k (Ø €32k p.a.) from the Leibniz Association (competitive procedure). Another €0.2k was acquired from other types of third-party funding.

7.2 – The Politics of Resources // Environment and Justice

[10.6 FTE, thereof 7.4 FTE Research and scientific services, 1.3 FTE Doctoral candidates, 1.9 FTE Science support staff – furthermore 1.5 FTE Student assistants]

The research unit Politics of Resources (2014-2019) investigated how natural substances and matters such as land, water, and timber are “turned into” resources. It explored the ways actors perceived, accommodated, or resisted extraction and commodification while drawing on material and immaterial (ethical) frameworks of valuation. Researchers investigated these ambivalent valuations in case studies located between Uzbekistan and Cameroun from the 17th century to the present.

Since 2020, the current unit Environment and Justice has continued to analyse the uneven power relations inherent in resource extraction and commodification, while widening the scope to include larger environmental issues and focusing on experiences and representations of inequality, justice, and injustice. Researchers working on case studies situated between Senegal and Indonesia and on historical cases study how people plan the future amid the results of climate change, how they live with radioactive pollution, or seek to adapt to changing political and ecological conditions for agriculture and aquaculture. The

unit asks if and how these issues were framed in terms of “justice” or “injustice,” and which other categories and concepts are used to describe inequalities in human-environment relations.

Between 2019 and 2021, the research unit published 2 monographs, 15 contributions to edited volumes, 20 articles in peer-reviewed journals (1 more had already been accepted for publication by the end of 2021) and 4 articles in other journals. It edited 6 volumes.

Members of the scientific staff also provided a total of 6 expert reviews.

In the three-year period, 1 doctoral degree and 1 academic degree leading to doctoral work were completed.

The institutional funding amounted to €1.8m (Ø €605k p.a.), the revenue from project grants totalled approx. €615k (Ø €205k p.a.). €295k (Ø €98k p.a.) thereof were obtained from federal and *Länder* governments, €243k (Ø €81k p.a.) from the DFG and €67k (Ø €22k p.a.) from foundations (Ø €20.7k p.a. thereof from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and Ø €1.6k p.a. from the Thyssen Foundation). Another €9.6k were acquired from other types of third-party funding.

7.3 – Trajectories of Lives and Knowledge // Representations of the Past as a Mobilizing Force

[7 FTE, thereof 4.4 FTE Research and scientific services, 0.7 FTE Doctoral candidates, 1.9 FTE Science support staff – furthermore 1.7 FTE Student assistants]

Until December 2019, the research unit Trajectories of Lives and Knowledge investigated how lives and knowledge intersect in the diverse ways in which people are located in, subjected to, creatively inhabit, and otherwise move through historical contexts and institutional frameworks. By following the lives and works of intellectuals, politicians, journalists, writers, prisoners of war, and soldiers, individual projects tracked these various individuals’ worldviews, visions of different futures, and self-positioning within multi-layered historical contexts.

In 2020, within the framework of the current research unit Representations of the Past as a Mobilizing Force, the focus shifted from biographical approaches and connections between life worlds and practices of knowledge production to debates and struggles over representations of pasts. The unit now explores under which circumstances and with which political goals representations of the past can become a mobilising force. A major goal is to identify translocal connectivities between discourses and practices of representation, as well as to compare struggles over images of the past in different times. Thematic foci are the relationship between historically operating sciences and politics, the significance of memory politics, and practices of interacting with historical images (Geschichtsbilder) in everyday life.

Between 2019 and 2021, the research unit published 5 monographs, 18 contributions to edited volumes (1 more had already been accepted for publication by the end of 2021), 20 articles in peer-reviewed journals (1 more had already been accepted for publication by the end of 2021) and 15 articles in other journals. Additionally, it published 5 work and

discussion papers. It edited 9 volumes. 1 of the publications was co-authored with scientists from other units.

Members of the scientific staff also provided a total of 4 expert reviews.

In the three-year period 2 academic degrees leading to doctoral work were completed. Another MA thesis had been submitted but not yet defended in 2021.

The institutional funding amounted to €1.8m (Ø €611k p.a.), the revenue from project grants totalled approx. €947k (Ø €316k p.a.). €458k (Ø €153k p.a.) thereof were obtained from the DFG, €352k (Ø €117k p.a.) from federal and *Länder* governments, €106k (Ø €35k p.a.) from EU funding and €31k (Ø €10k p.a.) from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Another €0.8k was acquired from other types of third-party funding.

7. 4 – Contested Religion and Intellectual Culture

[13.1 FTE, thereof 5.2 FTE Research and scientific services, 3 Post-doctoral fellows, 2.7 FTE Doctoral candidates, 2.3 FTE Science support staff – furthermore 1.5 FTE Student assistants]

The research unit took up work in 2020 and investigates the interplay between religion, morality, and intellectual culture. Cognisant of the significance religiosity carries in the world today, the unit engages with the ways in which religiosity is mobilised and invested into both individual and collective life projects. From that perspective, the unit examines the forms of “knowledge” and “morality” that are claimed and invoked as accepted and right and the political ideologies and the dynamics that make people push for social, religious, and political reform. In this, attention is given to the relevant conceptual frameworks and regional intellectual traditions. The unit builds on the Leibniz Junior Research Group “Religion, Morality and Boko in West Africa: Students Training for a Good Life” (Remoboko), which examines the interactions between Salafists and Pentecostals on university campuses in West Africa. The group has been operating at ZMO since June 2018 and is scheduled to continue until mid-2023. “Contested religion” expands on the themes and the problematic of Remoboko so as to include other parts of the world, issues that relate to the politics of intellectual culture, and conceptualisations of what constitutes a good life. Central to this unit are the ways secular and religion-based epistemologies interact, become entangled, and shape individual and collective projects, in a context characterised by increased global flows of ideas and human mobility.

Between 2020 and 2021, the research unit published 1 monograph, 8 contributions to edited volumes (1 more had already been accepted for publication by the end of 2021) and 8 articles in peer-reviewed journals (1 more had already been accepted for publication by the end of 2021). It edited 3 volumes.

Members of the scientific staff also provided a total of 2 expert reviews.

1 academic degree leading to doctoral work was completed as well.

The institutional funding amounted to €1m (Ø €505k p.a.), the revenue from project grants totalled approx. €447k (Ø €224k p.a.). €265k (Ø €132k p.a.) thereof were obtained from the Leibniz Association (competitive procedure), €136k (Ø €68k p.a.) from the DFG

and €40k (Ø €20k p.a.) from the VW Foundation. Another €5.8k were acquired from other types of third-party funding.

7. 5 – Cities as Laboratories of Change (2017-2019)

The research unit operated until 2019 and explored how the city is a site of change, both as a unit whose structures and governance may be experimented with and as a socio-political space offering chances and challenges to those inhabiting and governing it. Case studies were conducted in West Africa, South Asia, and the MENA region from the 19th to the 21st centuries. The unit asked how the very nature of the city, which includes large populations, closely packed settlements, migration, capital exchange, and seats of political power, made it a place of novelties and transformations. The city often leads the way to new social relations, cultural practices, industry and technology, infrastructure, and governance. The unit showed how the non-Western world contributed to past and present understandings of urbanity and highlighted certain specificities, as well as many commonalities with cities elsewhere, with hugely varying roles played by religious norms and prescriptions. The research carried out was divided into three subfields. First, this research concentrated on the social, material, and economic development of cities. Second, the unit explored the relationship between the city and the individuals inhabiting and shaping it, exploring social relations and civic engagement, but also acts of resistance, moments of conflict, and mechanisms for its resolution. And third, it analysed various ideologies and visions of city and urbanity.

Between 2017 and 2019, the research unit published 3 monographs, 29 contributions to edited volumes, 19 articles in peer-reviewed journals and 4 articles in other journals. Additionally, it published 2 work and discussion papers. It edited 2 volumes. In 2020 and 2021, another 4 monographs, 3 peer-reviewed articles and 6 contributions to edited volumes that resulted from this unit's work were published.

Members of the scientific staff also provided a total of 2 expert reviews.

In the three-year period, 2 doctoral degrees were completed.

In 2019, the institutional funding amounted to €689k, the revenue from project grants totalled approx. €377k. €265k thereof were obtained foundations (€213k from the VW Foundation and €52k from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation) and €112k from the DFG. Another €0.2k were acquired from other types of third-party funding.

7. 6 – Crosscutting, Exploratory, and Supplementary Research

[13.2 FTE, thereof 4.8 FTE Research and scientific services, 1 Post-doctoral fellow, 5.3 FTE Doctoral candidates, 2.1 FTE Science support staff – furthermore 1.5 FTE Student assistants]

This unit has no permanent dedicated staff but hosts contributions from ZMO researchers, especially from the directorate, as well as from several third-party-funded researchers. Research generally seeks to synthesise the results of work conducted in the other units, relate them to the research programme, and elaborate on crosscutting themes that affect

several units. In addition, research in this category addresses questions of the overall programme and develops it conceptually and methodologically.

The unit also offers space for third-party funded studies that are currently independent of the research programme but linked to the overall aims of the centre. This includes the following projects that are deemed to constitute important avenues for future research and are therefore hosted here:

- Timely Histories: A Social History of Time in South Asia (ERC Consolidator Grant)
- Historicity of Democracy in the Arab and Muslim Worlds (Leibniz Competition)
- Normality and Crisis: Memories of Everyday Life in Syria as a Chance for a New Start in Germany (Federal Ministry for Education and Research)
- Learning Intelligence: The Exchange of Secret Service Knowledge between Germany and the Arab Middle East 1960-2010 (Volkswagen Foundation)
- Developmentality in Southeastern Europe: The Evolution of Developmental Discourse in Bulgaria and Turkey in the Debate on Traffic Infrastructure (DFG)

Between 2019 and 2021, the research unit published 10 monographs, 20 contributions to edited volumes (2 more had already been accepted for publication by the end of 2021), 10 articles in peer-reviewed journals (1 more had already been accepted for publication by the end of 2021) and 7 articles in other journals. Additionally, it published 6 work and discussion papers. It edited 6 volumes. 2 of the publications were co-authored with scientists from other units.

Members of the scientific staff also provided a total of 10 expert reviews.

In the three-year period, 1 doctoral degree was completed in 2020 by a scholar who had left ZMO in 2017 at the end of their project. Additionally, 11 academic degrees leading to doctoral work were completed. Another MA thesis had been submitted but not yet defended in 2021.

The institutional funding amounted to €1m (Ø €337k p.a.), the revenue from project grants totalled approx. €1,9m (Ø €642k p.a.). €699k (Ø €233k p.a.) thereof were obtained from EU funding, €568k (Ø €189k p.a.) from the VW foundation, €372k (Ø €124k p.a.) from the Leibniz Association (competitive procedure), €199k (Ø €66k p.a.) from the DFG and €64k (Ø €21k p.a.) from federal and *Länder* governments. Another €24k (Ø €8k p.a.) were acquired from other types of third-party funding.

8. Handling of recommendations from the previous evaluation

ZMO responded as follows to the 5 core recommendations of the last external evaluation (recommendations highlighted in italics with original German phrasing in brackets – see also the full statement of the German Council of Science and Humanities issued on 15 April 2016, pages 12-15):

- 1) *Should ZMO obtain permanent institutional funding, it would be desirable to better integrate the various research projects through a theoretical-programmatic bracket. In*

particular, the historical comparative research should be more closely linked to the empirically oriented projects in social anthropology and a programmatic and institutional balance should be established between the two fields.

(Im Fall, dass das ZMO künftig eine dauerhafte institutionelle Finanzierung erhält, sollten die bottom-up entwickelten Forschungsprojekte des ZMO stärker als bisher durch eine programmatische Klammer verbunden werden. In diesem Sinne muss die vergleichende historische Forschung des ZMO mit den empirisch sozialanthropologisch ausgerichteten Projekten in Beziehung gesetzt und programmatisch mit ihnen in ein Gleichgewicht gebracht werden.)

ZMO points to having established an overarching research unit “Crosscutting, exploratory, and supplementary research,” headed jointly by the director, a historian, and the vice director for research, an anthropologist (see chapter 7). Together with the four other research units, the unit organises the theoretical conversations at ZMO and pays close attention to interdisciplinary and interregional dialogue, in addition to coordinating and integrating supplementary and exploratory research. Shared or cross-cutting theoretical concerns are reflected in ZMO publications as well. A key specificity of the centre is a common interest in postcolonial perspectives as well as global microhistory, with which they have strived to engage more systematically in recent years.

- 2) *Should ZMO obtain future permanent institutional funding, it should decide on a more permanent organisational structure instead of the four temporary working groups, and it should integrate third-party funded projects therein.*

(Falls das ZMO künftig eine dauerhafte institutionelle Finanzierung erhält, sollte es statt der vier befristeten Arbeitsgruppen eine organisatorische Struktur mit längerfristigen Organisationseinheiten (z. B. Abteilungen) festlegen und Drittmittelprojekte in diese neue Struktur einpassen.)

ZMO has created four Research Units with permanent heads which work on distinct topics. A fifth Research Unit, entitled “Crosscutting, exploratory, and supplementary research” (see above) is headed by the director and the vice director for research.

Third-party funded projects are partly generated and integrated within these units, and supported by them. Whenever ZMO is approached from the outside with ideas for third-party funding, these suggestions must be compatible either with the four thematic research units or with the overarching research concerns of the centre. Once an application is successful, the colleagues working within the project are integrated into this structure.

- 3) *A joint professorship with a university, staffed by an eminent scientist in anthropology or the social sciences should be created as a matter of priority.*

(Für vordringlich wird die Einrichtung einer W3-Stelle erachtet, die mit einer sozialanthropologisch oder sozialwissenschaftlich ausgerichteten Persönlichkeit in gemeinsamer Berufung mit einer Universität besetzt werden sollte.)

ZMO realised this recommendation through the joint appointment of an anthropologist working on African philosophy, Swahili intellectual culture, and theorising from the Global South, who now serves as vice-director for research.

4) *Additional permanent positions should be created for the library of ZMO.*

(Weitere zusätzliche Dauerstellen sollten für die Bibliothek des ZMO eingerichtet werden.)

ZMO regrets that this recommendation could not be realised due to financial constraints. The centre points out that some of the overhead funds generated through third-party funding were invested in order to work particularly on the special collection and the new repository. They express their hope that the additional funding for which they are applying (*Sondertatbestand*, see chapter 3) will help to improve the situation.

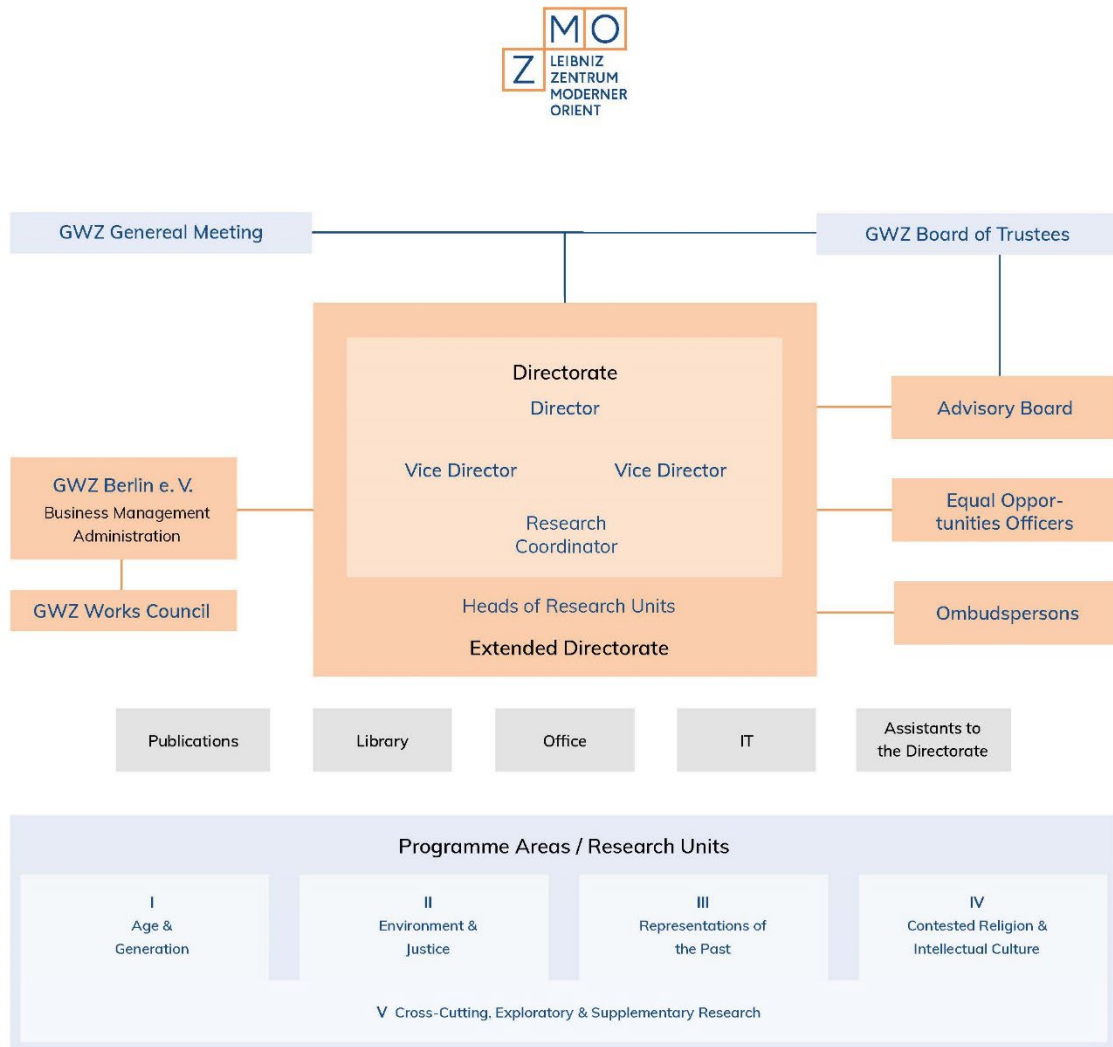
5) *The majority of personnel is on fixed-term contracts due to the fixed-term programme funding by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research; at least the posts of the heads of the working groups and those responsible for hosting guest scholars should be made permanent to guarantee continuity.*

(Ein Großteil des Personals ist aufgrund der zeitlich terminierten Ergänzungsausstattung aus der Programmförderung des BMBF derzeit befristet beschäftigt; zumindest die Stellen für die Arbeitsgruppenleitungen und die Betreuung der Gastwissenschaftlerinnen und -wissenschaftler sollten künftig dauerhaft besetzt werden, um Kontinuität gewährleisten zu können.)

The centre explains that once the decision on permanent funding had been taken, they initialised a process by which all administrative personnel serving the overall centre (as opposed to fixed-term projects such as ERCs), the vice-director for knowledge transfer, the research coordinator, the research unit leaders as well as two further senior scholars were made permanent. The latter two positions were advertised internally and awarded in a competitive process involving references from members of the Advisory Board.

Appendix 1

Organisational Chart



as of 2022

Appendix 2

Publications, patents, and expert reviews

	Period		
	2019	2020	2021 ¹⁾
Total number of publications	88	61	95 (+9)
Monographs	10	8	4 (+1)
Individual contributions to edited volumes	28	19	33 (+3)
Articles in peer-reviewed journals	30	16	29 (+5)
Articles in other journals	5	8	14
Working and discussion papers	4	3	5
Editorship of edited volumes	11	7	10

	2019	2020	2021
Number of expert reviews (knowledge transfer)	13	10	6

¹ Contributions that have been accepted for publication but not yet appeared are added in parenthesis.

Appendix 3 Revenue and Expenditure

Revenue		2019			2020			2021		
		k€	%	%	k€	%	%	k€	%	%
Total revenue (sum of I, II, and III; excluding DFG fees)		4.385,9			3.917,7			4.793,4		
I.	Revenue (sum of I.1., I.2., and I.3)	4.381,2	100 %		3.909,2	100 %		4.784,7	100%	
1.	<u>INSTITUTIONAL FUNDING (EXCLUDING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AND ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY)</u>	2.627,5	60 %		2.748,8	70%		2.654,6	55%	
1.1	Institutional funding (excluding construction projects and acquisition of property) by Federal and <i>Länder</i> governments according to AV-WGL	2.627,5			2.748,8			2.654,6		
1.2	Institutional funding [excluding construction projects and acquisition of property] not received in accordance with AV-WGL	0			0			0		
2.	<u>REVENUE FROM PROJECT GRANTS</u>	1.753,5	40 %	100 %	1.160,4	30%	100 %	2.130,1	45%	100%
2.1	DFG	332		19 %	382		33%	443		21%
2.2	Leibniz Association (Competition)	94,9		5%	189,5		16%	447,8		21%
2.3	Federal, <i>Länder</i> governments	773,6		44%	194,8		17%	156,8		7%
2.4	EU	105,7		6%	0		0%	698,6		33%
2.5	Alexander von Humboldt Foundation	63,7		4%	36,8		3%	46,1		2%
2.6	VW-Foundation	336,9		19%	234,4		20%	250,4		12%
2.7	Thyssen Foundation	4,9		0,3%	110		9%	70		3%
2.8	Other Foundation	31,4		2%	0,0		0%	0		0%
2.9	Other Third-Party Funding	10,4		0,6%	12,9		1%	17,5		1%
3.	<u>REVENUE FROM SERVICES</u>	0,2	0 %		0	0 %		0	0 %	
3.1	Revenue from commissioned work	0			0			0		
3.2	Revenue from publications	0,2			0			0		
II.	Miscellaneous revenue (rental income)	4,7			8,5			8,7		

Expenditures		k€	k€	k€
Expenditures (excluding DFG fees)		4.360,9	3.829,6	4.154,7
1.	Personnel	3.564,2	3.113,4	3.423
2.	Material expenses	775,7	655,5	697,3
3.	Equipment investments	21	60,7	34,4

DFG fees (if paid for the institution – 2.5% of revenue from institutional funding)	64,1	65,5	66,5
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Appendix 4

Staff

(Basic financing and third-party funding / proportion of women (as of: 31/12/2021))

	Full time equivalents		Employees		Female employees		Foreigners
	Total	on third-party funding	Total	on temporary contracts	Total	on temporary contracts	Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Research and scientific services	32,2	45	37	70,4	19	73,7	21
1 st level (scientific directors)	3	0	3	0	2	0	0
2 nd level (department leaders or equiv.)	4	0	4	0	3	0	1
3 rd level (group leaders or equiv.)	2	90	2*	100	1	100	2
Scientists in non-executive positions (A13, A14, E13, E14, or equivalent)	18	49,1	20	90	9	100	14
Doctoral candidates (A13, E13, E13/2, or equivalent)	5,2	74,2	8	100	4	100	4
Science support staff (library, technical support)	2,8	0	4				
Library (E9 to E12, upper mid-level service)	1,3	0	2				
Library (E5 to E8, mid-level service)	0,5	0	1				
Information technology - IT (E9 to E12, upper mid-level service)	1,0	0	1				
Science support staff (administration)	7,2	9	13				
Head of the administration	0,3	0	1				
Staff (E9 to E12, upper mid-level service)	1	0	1				
Staff (E5 to E8, mid-level service)	0,8	0	1				
Internal administration (financial administration, personnel, etc.) (E9 to E12, upper mid-level service)	1,6	0	5				
Internal administration (financial administration, personnel, etc.) (E5 to E8, mid-level service)	0,5	0	1				
Scientific services (from E13, senior service)**	2	33,3	3				
Building service (E1 to E4)	1	0	1				
Student assistants	7,7	9,8	18				
Fellowships (external financing)	2	100	2				
Scholarship recipients at the institution	7	57,1	7		3		4
Doctoral candidates***	4	100	4		2		4
Post-doctoral researchers	3	0	3		1		0

The GWZ administration is included in this table with its full number of employees at 1/3 of the full-time equivalent.

* One employee on a temporary contract has a dormant permanent contract (FTE 1.0) until 31/12/25.

** One employee has a contract not bound by the collective wage agreement for the public sector with 0.07 FTE.

*** Doctoral candidates are counted with 1.0 FTE.

Annex B: Evaluation Report

Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin (ZMO)

Contents

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Appendix:

Members of review board

1. Summary and main recommendations

The Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) conducts research into the history and society of Islamic regions of the world, focusing on interdependent regions in the Middle East, Africa, Central, South and Southeast Asia, as well as Europe, including South-South and South-North relations. Through its research, the ZMO examines cultural, social, political, and economic processes since the 18th century, and explores the production of knowledge about Muslim societies. The centre hosts researchers with a broad range of disciplinary backgrounds, including in particular history, social anthropology, ethnology, and Islamic studies, but also related subjects such as political science, sociology, literary and cultural studies as well as linguistics. The ZMO cooperates closely with researchers from its research regions and promotes exchange between science and other forms of knowledge production. It has become an internationally recognised hub for interdisciplinary humanities and social science discussion on Muslim societies.

The ZMO produces very good research results. These range from studies of Swahili-speaking Muslim communities and their sense of continuous political marginalisation to research into the role of religion in the context of Western-style university education systems in West Africa, and works with a broad historical scope, e.g. in the field of urban history. It is noteworthy that the ZMO often publishes its research results in non-European languages as well, particularly via *Open Access* routes that allow people in its research regions to access its results. Furthermore, the ZMO shows a convincing performance in terms of transfer activities, including film productions, exhibition projects and a strong presence in civic education. The overall performance of each of the four thematic research units is rated as “very good”.

The centre was founded in 1912 and eventually became part of the Academy of Sciences of the German Democratic Republic as *Institut für Orientforschung*. Since 1995 it has been, under its present name, one of three institutes within the umbrella of the Centers for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (*Geisteswissenschaftliche Zentren Berlin, GWZ*). From German reunification until the end of 2016, the ZMO was largely financed through large-scale but fixed-term project grants. From 2017, the ZMO is funded as a Leibniz institute through the federal and *Länder* governments. This has resulted in a significant increase in its core budget from €0.8m (2016) to €2.7m (2021). ZMO researchers are also very successful at competing for third-party funding for their projects. In recent years, grants have ranged from several Humboldt research fellowships to an ERC consolidator grant.

As recommended by the German Council of Science and Humanities (*Wissenschaftsrat*) during the initial evaluation seven years ago, a scientific leadership position in social anthropology was created in 2018. Since then, a second W3 professorship jointly appointed with Freie Universität has been anchored in the directorate alongside the director, who is a historian. The German Council of Science and Humanities also found that the fixed-term funding of the research programmes resulted in a project-based research structure with fixed-term project timescales of only a few years. It therefore recommended a transition to long-term organisational units, which is in line with *Leibniz*-institute practice. On the basis of this advice, the leaders of the research units were provided with permanent positions. Apart from this important personnel measure, however, the ZMO's internal structure largely

reflects the tradition of a fixed-term project network. Because of the considerable increase in long-term institutional funding which reduces the centre's dependence on project funding, conditions are very good for moving beyond this organisational setup.

The close collaboration with individuals and institutions from societies where knowledge production differs fundamentally in many respects from that of Western societies is one of the ZMO's unique features. This means that, alongside other tasks, it performs the role of a social research infrastructure (*"soziale Forschungsinfrastruktur"*) – something that it should place more emphasis on in the future.

Special consideration should be given to the following main recommendations in the evaluation report (highlighted in **bold face** in the text):

Strategic work planning for the coming years (chapter 3)

1. The ZMO is encouraged to do much more than it has until now to define **longer-term perspectives** for its work. The structures should be aligned more actively and assertively with the centre's role as a hub for interdisciplinary humanities and social science discussion on Muslim societies. The ZMO's role as a place for bringing about scholarly understanding between scientists and intellectuals from the research regions and those from Western societies should be strengthened further.

Planning for additional funds deriving from institutional funding (chapter 3)

2. The centre's aim is to digitise its diverse, unique collections and datasets and, especially, to use new methods to make them digitally accessible. For this purpose, the ZMO plans to set up a new cross-cutting focus area ("Researching and Securing Cultural Traditions. The Modern Orient in the Digital Age").

At the heart of the plan is the decision to build up expertise in digital humanities (1 head, 3 researchers, 1 data manager), supplemented by digital media expertise (1.5 digital media officer/curator). In addition, there are to be stipends for work on the ZMO's special collection and 3 student assistants, plus equipment and material resources. This is to be financed from the centre's own funds (€94,000/year) and additional funds (€899,000/year) from institutional funding, for which the centre plans to submit an application in 2023 for funding from 2025 onwards. In organisational terms, the current plan is to set up a department of research data management with these personnel and material resources. The idea is that the digital humanities researchers will be integrated in the research units and will develop digital indexing methods while also conducting their own research on ZMO topics within the research units.

The review board welcomes the plans to **build up expertise in the digital humanities**. However, the range of tasks listed for the digital humanities researchers is very broad and should be given a much clearer focus. As far as the special collection is concerned, the respective responsibilities of the library, the department of data management and the cross-cutting focus area must be clearly defined. There is also a need to set milestones that state by when which materials should be digitised and made accessible, and under what conditions they will be made accessible to the international scientific community.

Facilities and equipment (chapter 4)

3. The current unsatisfactory storage arrangements for the special collections urgently need to be improved to guarantee permanent preservation of these valuable materials. The directors and Supervisory Board of the ZMO should identify suitable archives or other institutions to take over the **appropriate long-term storage of the ZMO collections**.

The ZMO is an attractive partner for people, especially from the research regions, who wish to donate or bequeath objects and materials to its collections. The planned development of a centre of expertise in the digital humanities and an improvement to the archive situation could lead to even greater interest. The ZMO should assess, from a strategic point of view, whether, or under which conditions it can take over collections.

Scientific Advisory Board (chapter 4)

4. The composition of the SAB mirrors very well the broad range of interests pursued at the centre: in its diversity it covers an adequate scope in research as well as knowledge transfer. In terms of **internationality**, there is a bias towards Western countries. The centre is therefore strongly encouraged to also include members from its research regions or researchers from other regions studying the Islamic world.

2. Overall concept, activities and results

Overall concept

The Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) conducts research into the history and society of Islamic regions of the world, focusing on interdependent regions in the Middle East, Africa, Central, South and Southeast Asia, as well as Europe, including South-South and South-North relations. Through its research, the ZMO examines cultural, social, political, and economic processes since the 18th century, and explores the production of knowledge about Muslim societies.

The centre hosts researchers with a broad range of disciplinary backgrounds, including in particular history, social anthropology, ethnology, and Islamic studies, but also related subjects such as political science, sociology, literary and cultural studies as well as linguistics. The ZMO cooperates closely with researchers from its research regions and promotes exchange between science and other forms of knowledge production.

The ZMO organises its work through research programmes (*Hauptforschungsprogramme*). The current programme is called *Thinking Through Translocal Entanglements: Perspectives from Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*. Alongside a unit with cross-cutting tasks, it comprises four research units (*Forschungsfelder*) that are defined according to their content, each of which has been rated as “very good” in terms of performance (see chapter 7).

Activities and results

Research

The staff at the ZMO produce very good research results. These range from studies of Swahili-speaking Muslim communities and their sense of continuous political marginalisation to research into the role of religion in the context of Western-style university education systems

in West Africa, and works with a broad historical scope, e.g. in the field of urban history. ZMO researchers are very successful at competing for third-party funding for their projects. In recent years, grants have ranged from several Humboldt research fellowships to an ERC consolidator grant (see chapter 4 for more details).

The scientific results are very well published internationally and enjoy a high degree of visibility. A positive point worth highlighting is that the ZMO often publishes its research results in non-European languages as well, particularly via *Open Access* routes that also make them available in the regions where it conducts its research – some of which have only limited access to classic publication forms of Western academia.

Conditions for field research and collaboration with partners in the research regions are sometimes difficult. The ZMO has a great deal of experience in organising sound research work even under complicated political conditions. It is important that the specific competencies required for this are maintained at the centre (see chapter 5 under “Science support staff at the institute”).

Research infrastructure

The ZMO has an important specialist library and comprehensive collections that are used by the scientific community at large.

The increasing provision of digital research data as a result of the ongoing development of the ZMO’s own repository in collaboration with the joint library network (GBV) is an important step in the context of the centre’s initiative for *Open Science*. In the future, the ZMO plans to make its collections accessible using digital humanities methods (see chapter 3).

Knowledge transfer

Research at the ZMO is reflected in a diverse range of convincing outreach activities. In recent years, the knowledge transfer portfolio aimed at the general public has included in-house film productions, online exhibitions and a film festival which was jointly organised with partners.

The centre cooperates extensively in the area of civic education and is held in high regard by its partners. A recent highlight was the outcome of the BMBF-funded project on “Normality and Crisis: Memories of Everyday Life in Syria as a Chance for a New Start in Germany”: In 2021, together with the Berlin State Centre for Civic Education and other local actors, the ZMO produced an online exhibition and an animated film, and supported the public discussion about the project.

3. Changes and planning

Development since the previous evaluation

The ZMO was founded in 1912 and eventually became part of the Academy of Sciences of the German Democratic Republic as *Institut für Orientforschung*. Since 1995 it has been, under its present name, one of three institutes within the umbrella of the Berlin Centres for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (*Geisteswissenschaftliche Zentren Berlin, GWZ*). Since 2017, following a positive evaluation by the German Council of Science and Humanities,

which took account of a position statement by the Leibniz Association Senate, the ZMO has been funded as a Leibniz institute by the federal and *Länder* governments.

The period between 1990 and 2016 was dominated by the fact that the ZMO only had a small core budget. The staff appointment scheme consisted of 4.5 FTE for scientific staff and 5.5 FTE for science support staff. During this time, funding in the form of grants for specific programmes, from the DFG and later the BMBF, was vital. These programme grants were limited to a fixed term of up to six years.¹

The ZMO adjusted to this arrangement successfully and developed successive research programmes (*Hauptforschungsprogramme*) with research fields (*Forschungsfelder*) that were implemented through subprojects. The last evaluation, seven years ago, found that the ZMO's programme at the time, *Muslim Worlds – World of Islam? Conceptions, Practices and Crises of the Global*, was very well conducted. On the basis of a call for proposals, the ZMO had selected high-quality projects from all over the world and from a range of different disciplines to flesh out the programme.² Subsequently, the ZMO developed its research programme for the period from 2020 to 2024 on *Thinking Through Translocal Entanglements: Perspectives from Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*. Once again, this programme is divided into *Forschungsfelder* (now called “research units”) and implemented through a large number of relevant projects (see chapter 7 for details). A second phase is planned for this programme in principle from 2025 to 2029.

Seven years ago, the German Council of Science and Humanities recommended strengthening the programme framework that holds the various research projects at the ZMO together. In particular, the council recommended relating the comparative historical research to the empirical social anthropology projects and creating a balance between them in terms of the overall programme. To achieve this, it suggested strengthening the social anthropology area in structural terms by introducing a scientific leadership position in this area. The ZMO leadership and governing bodies implemented this suggestion very successfully together with Freie Universität Berlin in 2018. Since then, a second jointly appointed W3 professorship has been anchored in the directorate alongside the director, who is a historian.

Strategic work planning for the coming years

The recommendation about the research programme in the last evaluation included another important structural aspect. It was observed that, as a consequence of the fixed-term funding of the research programmes, the entire research work at the ZMO was structured in a project-based manner and aligned with medium-term project timescales. At the time, this led to a recommendation to establish long-term organisational units. On the basis of this advice, the leaders of the research units were provided with permanent positions. Apart

¹ [WR: Empfehlungen zur Entwicklung und Förderung der Geisteswissenschaften in Deutschland \(27.01.2006\)](#), see pages 101-113 for Centers for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (including the ZMO).

² [WR-Stellungnahme zum Antrag auf Aufnahme des ZMO in die Bund-Länder-Förderung \(15.04.2016\)](#).

from this important personnel measure, however, the ZMO's internal structure largely reflects the tradition of a fixed-term project network.

However, conditions are very good for moving beyond this organisational setup: firstly, permanent institutional funding is now more than three times as much as it was before the centre was included in funding by the federal and *Länder* governments (2016: €0.8m / 2021: €2.7m). Secondly, despite the many years of fixed-term funding, the ZMO has succeeded in becoming an internationally recognised centre for the discussion of the history and present-day realities of predominantly Muslim societies.

The ZMO is encouraged to do much more than it has until now to define longer-term perspectives for its work. The structures should be aligned more actively and assertively with the centre's role as a hub for interdisciplinary humanities and social science discussion on Muslim societies. The ZMO's role as a place for bringing about scholarly understanding between scientists and intellectuals from the research regions and those from Western societies should be strengthened further.

In this context, the review board highlights the following aspects:

- The ZMO's self-organisation should place even greater emphasis on its character as a 'centre' in future. It is remarkable how many researchers and intellectuals, in particular from the ZMO's research regions, are secured for residencies in Berlin. In making this possible, alongside other tasks, the ZMO performs the role of a social research infrastructure.³

However, this is currently not yet very well reflected in the centre's internal organisational structure. Within the Leibniz Association, other institutes such as the *Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe* and the *Leibniz Institute for Educational Media | Georg Eckert Institute* might serve as examples as to how this role can be visibly anchored – even in the programme budget.

- The ZMO's international aspects include collaboration with individuals and institutions from societies where knowledge production differs fundamentally in many respects from that of Western societies. The ZMO tackles the challenges and high demands associated with achieving agreement on theories and methods. However, the associated, extremely complex epistemological issues relating to the formation of knowledge in its different forms, and to its claims to explanation and truth, need an even more thorough penetration and explication. These issues should not only be clarified as the basis for conducting individual projects in the fields of the humanities and social sciences, but they should also be made more of a research focus in their own right.
- In this context, the review board suggests not striving too much to create a programme framework for joint work in the research units (*Forschungsfelder*) through a (narrow) concept of thematic coherence and synchronisation of individual projects, as was unavoidable when the ZMO was funded as a project network. Instead, the centre could

³ See [WR: Empfehlungen zu den Forschungsinfrastrukturen in den Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften \(28.01.2011\)](#) for background on the concept, especially page 20. – For its use by the Leibniz Association, see Leibniz-Gemeinschaft: Forschungsinfrastrukturen. Berlin [2014] and [Leibniz Association - Social Research Infrastructures \(Overview\)](#).

open up the units in terms of the topics covered. At the same time, they should put more emphasis on their strength in offering space for intensive, longer-term discussions of theories and methods. This should be made more explicit and put into focus.

- Highlighting the function of the ZMO as a social research infrastructure and emphasising the role of the research units in developing theories and methods would ultimately enable the centre to streamline the structure of Research Unit V (Cross-cutting, Exploratory, and Supplementary Research), or even to disband it altogether. Currently, it performs two different functions:

Firstly, this is where all projects with third-party funding that cannot be easily aligned with the existing research units are positioned. If the research units were not so closely tied to the logic of a project network, these very good projects could be integrated into the research units, which would mean they could also be involved more extensively in the theoretical discussions. This also applies to the scientific projects currently assigned to Research Unit V that are being run by the two directors.

Secondly, Research Unit V is currently assigned the role of being the place for cross-cutting syntheses and issues. As recommended, this should be integrated more fully into each of the individual research units. It would then make sense to create a suitable space for the ensuing overarching exchange and synthesis at a higher level.

These points are intended to show the direction that strategic considerations could take in the coming years. How this will be implemented in detail should be discussed and decided by the directors and employees of the ZMO and its governing bodies in the near future.

The leadership and scientific staff of the ZMO, its administrative staff in the umbrella organisation GWZ and the Advisory and Supervisory Boards fulfilled a wealth of requirements to a high standard after 2017 to meet the centre's administrative obligations as a Leibniz institute with institutional funding from the federal and *Länder* governments. They should now make full use of the creative freedom this funding gives them.

Planning for additional institutional funding

The ZMO has unique special collections, in particular rare documents and objects that came as donations and bequests from individuals from the centre's research regions and from researchers all over the world. It also has audio and audiovisual materials and extensive empirical data from its own research projects. **The centre's aim is to digitise its diverse, unique collections and datasets and, especially, to use new methods to make them digitally accessible. For this purpose, the ZMO plans to set up a new cross-cutting focus area ("Researching and Securing Cultural Traditions. The Modern Orient in the Digital Age").**

At the heart of the plan is the decision to build up expertise in digital humanities (1 head, 3 researchers, 1 data manager), supplemented by digital media expertise (1.5 digital media officer/curator). In addition, there are to be stipends for work on the ZMO's special collection and 3 student assistants, plus equipment and material resources. This is to be financed from the centre's own funds (€94,000/year) and additional funds (€899,000/year) from institutional funding, for which the centre

plans to submit an application in 2023 for funding from 2025 onwards. In organisational terms, the current plan is to set up a department of research data management with these personnel and material resources. The idea is that the digital humanities researchers will be integrated in the research units and will develop digital indexing methods while also conducting their own research on ZMO topics within the research units.

The review board welcomes the plans to build up expertise in the digital humanities. However, the range of tasks listed for the digital humanities researchers is very broad and should be given a much clearer focus. As far as the special collection is concerned, the respective responsibilities of the library, the department of data management and the cross-cutting focus area must be clearly defined. There is also a need to set milestones that state by when which materials should be digitised and made accessible, and under what conditions they will be made accessible to the international scientific community. In addition, an application should mention how storage of the archived material will be improved in the future (see recommendations on chapter 4).

4. Controlling and quality management

Facilities, equipment and funding

Funding

At the time of its last evaluation, the ZMO had a total of approximately €2.7m (2015) at its disposal. Only €0.8m of this was provided by the *Land* Berlin as institutional funding. Additional temporary supplementary funding of €1.4m came from the federal government, and another €0.5m was acquired through third-party funding. Since the ZMO's inclusion in the joint funding provided by the federal and *Länder* governments as a Leibniz institute in 2017, the centre's financial resources have improved significantly.

Now, institutional funding alone amounts to approximately €2.65m (2021), a sum which is adequate to cover the ZMO's current portfolio of activities. Additionally, the centre is very successful at acquiring third-party funding that is awarded competitively. €2.1m was raised in 2021, amounting to 45% of the total budget and surpassing by far the long-term target of 33%. Of this project funding, 33% came from the ERC/EU, 21% each from the DFG and the Leibniz Association's competitive procedures, 17% from foundations and 7% from the federal and *Länder* governments.

It is welcomed that the staff appointment plan will no longer be binding in Berlin from 2023 onwards.

Facilities and equipment

The ZMO is located in a historical building in Berlin-Nikolassee, which it shares with the *Historische Kommission Berlin-Brandenburg* (HiKo). The facilities are generally appropriate and suitable for day-to-day work. As space on the premises is noticeably limited, it is good to see that plans are under way to secure additional space for future use.

The current unsatisfactory storage arrangements for the special collections urgently need to be improved to guarantee permanent preservation of these valuable materials. The directors and Supervisory Board of the ZMO should identify suitable archives or other institutions to take over the appropriate long-term storage of the ZMO collections (*as a Depositum*).

The ZMO is an attractive partner for people who wish to donate or bequeath objects and materials to its collections, especially from the research regions. The planned development of a centre of expertise in the digital humanities and an improvement to the archive situation could lead to even greater interest. The ZMO should assess, from a strategic point of view, whether, or under which conditions it can take over collections.

Organisational and operational structure

The directorate and senior scientists at the centre are very successful at steering it scientifically and maintaining a highly stimulating environment with excellent working conditions and support opportunities for the researchers who work there.

The shared administration with two other Berlin-based Leibniz centres through the GWZ, which is appreciated by the ZMO as an efficient, resource-saving solution, fulfils its purpose adequately. The structure, with the three centre directors and the managing director forming the Board of the GWZ, makes sense.

Quality management

The ZMO has established a comprehensive set of quality assurance instruments in recent years. It commits to the rules of good scientific practice issued by the DFG and the Leibniz Association and has supplemented them with its own mechanisms and practices. Since 2019, the handling of research data, which is performed with great care and responsibility, is laid out in the centre's guideline on research data management. It is pleasing to see that a formalisation of ethics procedures is under way as well, as this is extremely important in the kind of field work that many of the scientists at the ZMO pursue.

As mentioned in chapter 2, the centre's publication strategy is bearing fruit in an impressively wide range of high-quality publications with a good balance between in-house and external publications. The ZMO's efforts in terms of *Open Access* publication are commendable. All internal publications are available in *Open Access*.

Quality management by advisory boards and supervisory board

The Scientific Advisory Board fulfils its functions as an external advisory body appropriately and carries out its duties with a high level of commitment. **The composition of the SAB mirrors very well the broad range of interests pursued at the centre: In its diversity it covers an adequate scope in research as well as knowledge transfer. In terms of internationality, there is a bias towards Western countries. The centre is therefore strongly encouraged to also include members from its research regions or researchers from other regions studying the Islamic world.**

The Board of Trustees also fulfils its role in an adequate manner.

5. Human resources

Leading scientific and administrative positions

Following the admission of the ZMO to the joint federal and *Länder* funding system, the position of Vice-Director of Research was created. With the Scientific Director being a historian, this position represents the centre's second core scientific focus: anthropology. In addition, it became possible to make several – predominantly senior – academic positions permanent. Both the Scientific Director and the Vice-Director for Research are jointly appointed with Freie Universität Berlin. When the current Scientific Director retires in 2027, her successor will again be appointed jointly in accordance with the cooperation agreement signed between the ZMO and the university. The third member of the Directorate is a Vice-Director being responsible in particular for transfer.

When recruiting for leading positions at the ZMO, the centre follows a well-documented and sensible procedure. External reviewers are always included for permanent contracts.

Staff with a doctoral degree

The centre provides its postdoctoral researchers with excellent working conditions. Career guidelines are in place to ensure individually tailored career development support at various stages. Of the five postdoctoral scholars who habilitated or have obtained *habilitation* equivalents since 2016, four stayed at the ZMO. The fifth was awarded a Heisenberg position in Bayreuth in 2020. Since the previous evaluation, a further 12 current or former ZMO employees have been appointed to senior or permanent positions at universities in Germany or abroad.

Most of the academic positions in the ZMO's core budget are permanent (11 out of 16.5 in 2021, including the Director and the Vice-Director for Research). At the time of the evaluation by the German Council of Science and Humanities in 2015, none of the research staff were on permanent contracts.

Doctoral candidates

In its core budget, the ZMO places a clear focus on postdoctoral research. Doctoral students, on the other hand, are predominantly brought in through third-party funded projects and scholarships. The centre maintains a good balance between doctoral and postdoctoral staff.

As of 2021, it hosts 12 doctoral students. They are very well integrated in the ongoing academic discourse, receive comprehensive support for their projects and benefit from flat hierarchies throughout the centre. The mentoring system which allows for informal doctoral supervision by postdoctoral scholars has proved particularly advantageous for all parties involved.

Given the ZMO's strong international focus, an even more explicit promotion of support structures for incoming researchers (for example language training) should be considered to help integrate them even better into German academic structures outside of the ZMO.

Science support staff at the institute

It is important that the scientific staff and visiting researchers from all over the world, especially those from the research regions, are well supported in terms of sometimes very specific administrative issues, e.g. when entering and leaving Germany. The ZMO staff responsible for this perform their work in an outstanding manner and with great dedication. The number of science support staff assigned for these tasks at the centre is low, however. In view of its impressive success in recent years at bringing in additional research staff through third-party funded projects, it is important to ensure that staffing on the administrative side of the centre keeps up as well.

The centre provides good opportunities for early career orientation. It regularly offers internships which attract young adults from Germany as well as internationally. Moreover, numerous student research assistants take care of a range of science support tasks. As of 2021, 18 of them are employed at the centre, and there is an impressive track record of completed master's theses in the context of student work done at the ZMO.

The ZMO benefits from the fact that tasks like HR administration and budget management are performed by the administrative staff in the GWZ, who look after three institutes and are therefore in a very good position to build up cross-institutional administrative knowhow.

Equal opportunities and work-life balance

Given the diversity of the ZMO's staff in terms of ethnic, linguistic and cultural backgrounds, an Equal Opportunities Committee was established in 2020 to ensure that, in addition to gender equality, all individuals at the ZMO have ample representation and are supported equally. The committee is very active and stands behind the centre's Equal Opportunities and Gender Equality Concept as well as its recently adopted Equal Opportunity Plan. Overall, the ZMO's equal opportunity measures are exemplary.

Their efforts are reflected in the composition of the staff: As of 2021, 51% of the academic staff were female, with an even higher percentage of 62.5% among the leading scientists. Of the 11 permanent scientific positions at the centre, 4 are held by researchers from abroad. This, too, is an impressive achievement.

6. Cooperation and environment

The ZMO cooperates closely and very successfully within the Berlin University Alliance. Both the Scientific Director and the Vice-Director for Research are jointly appointed with Freie Universität Berlin. The centre also regularly cooperates with Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, for example in the international working group on "Thinkers and Theorizing from the South" and in a lecture series on theories from the Global South. The two universities and the ZMO are the organisations behind the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies (BGSMS). Cooperation also extends to joint projects like the DFG-funded project on "Modernes Indien in Deutschen Archiven" (Modern India in German Archives, MIDA). Finally, ZMO staff members are very involved in university teaching and supervision, particularly at Berlin-based institutions.

Even beyond the Berlin area, the centre is very well connected in the academic landscape nationally and internationally. It has signed memoranda of understanding with numerous universities and non-university research institutions which are predominantly located in the regions studied by its researchers. The review board recommends that it makes use of these ties even beyond the immediate research contexts at hand by increasingly enabling staff exchanges. This could provide valuable professional experience for doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers while at the same time increasing the ZMO's overall visibility.

Within the Leibniz Association, close bonds have been established with several institutes with a historical focus. In particular, the ZMO is involved in the Leibniz Research Alliance "Value of the Past" and has acquired funding through the Leibniz Collaborative Excellence programme for "Historicity of Democracy in the Arab and Muslim Worlds" (HISDEMAB), an international project in collaboration with the Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG) and the Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History (ZZF).

The centre enjoys a very good reputation and is very well connected in its immediate fields of research. Beyond these, it would profit from showcasing its work even more prominently to increase its visibility in neighbouring disciplines as well. The ZMO's multifaceted cooperative activities in knowledge transfer are testimony to the centre's laudable ambitions to have an impact on the general public.

7. Subdivisions of the ZMO

Subdivision I – Age and Generation (formerly Progress: Ideas, Agents, Symbols)

[6.5 FTE, of whom 4.6 FTE research and scientific services staff, 1.9 FTE science support staff – furthermore 1.5 FTE student assistants]

Between 2014 and 2019, the research unit explored how narratives of progress are created in Muslim settings, looking predominantly at young actors. As part of the new research programme since 2020, focus has shifted to intergenerational issues, for example in studies about care work, gender, materiality of house and home, as well as discursive and ideological frameworks.

The impressively widely travelled, highly international research staff deliver very good and relevant scientific work which they publish in a suitable manner. While findings from the previous research programme still dominate the published output, the new programme is already starting to bear fruit in some recent publications. Beyond each researcher's individual work, they also successfully bring together their different perspectives in a well-organised, productive exchange. This includes the discussion and development of concepts suitable for application within the group's research scope. On this basis the shared vision of the unit should now be developed further to flesh out the conceptual bond holding it together. The members of the unit are also encouraged to proceed with their plans to engage in joint projects beyond their individual research in the future. Some very good work is done in the area of knowledge transfer, for example in the production of documentary video clips and a seminar series in collaboration with the *Ethnologisches Museum* in Berlin.

The funding applications that are due to be submitted in the near future offer welcome financial prospects after a decrease in third-party funding over the past few years. Right now, Research Unit I consists exclusively of postdoctoral researchers. It is worth considering the inclusion of doctoral students as well, not least because the working conditions here would provide a highly stimulating setting for doctoral research.

The research unit is rated as “very good”.

Subdivision II – Environment and Justice (formerly The Politics of Resources)

[10.6 FTE, of whom 7.4 FTE research and scientific services staff, 1.3 FTE doctoral candidates, 1.9 FTE science support staff – furthermore 1.5 FTE student assistants]

During the previous research programme, this unit explored natural raw materials as resources as well as the power structures involved in their exploitation. Since 2020, the researchers have been looking into these kinds of structures with a broader general focus on environmental issues, especially concentrating on inequality, justice and injustice.

The researchers in this unit are very successful in their individual research and, coming from numerous disciplines, visibly stimulate each other’s work by exchanging views on the shared research topics. They work together in a highly productive, intellectually supportive spirit. They welcome new ideas and perspectives from different disciplinary fields, including from beyond the boundaries of their research unit. At times, there is still a need to develop these into reliable concepts for their own work. Overall, however, the practice of critically assessing concepts and adapting them for future application appears viable. Media play a major role in the unit’s successful activities in knowledge transfer, covering a range of different formats. A particular highlight was the organisation of the film festival “*anthropoSCENE: Film and Climate Justice in Asia and Africa*” in 2017.

Alongside its continuing interdisciplinary activities, the unit plans to further deepen its conceptual engagement with several core notions in its current programme. This is welcomed by the review board and would allow for further clarification of some of the key terms involved.

The research unit is rated as “very good”.

Subdivision III – Representations of the Past as a Mobilizing Force (formerly Trajectories of Lives and Knowledge)

[7 FTE, of whom 4.4 FTE research and scientific services staff, 0.7 FTE doctoral candidates, 1.9 FTE science support staff – furthermore 1.7 FTE student assistants]

Until 2019, the unit used biographical approaches to investigate how people’s self-positioning and their aspirations for the future played out within complex historical contexts. They thereby also explored social processes of knowledge production. With the new programme, the functioning and instrumentalisation of historical representations has become a focus of investigation. The unit researches how, by whom and with what impact pasts are represented as a mobilising force in the present.

In this impressively international unit as well, the researchers pursue very successful individual research while at the same time forming a coherent group in which they

productively build on their thematic common ground. Beyond their academic cooperation within the ZMO they are very active in developing external partnerships beyond the centre. They are also very creative and successful when it comes to reaching a broader audience in terms of knowledge transfer. This is evident, for example, in the production of the documentary film *"The Sound of Friendship"* (2021) and in their engagement with hip hop communities on social media.

While the high degree of flexibility for creative exchange and development that the unit ensures for its members clearly works very well for them, it is recommended that they present their shared conceptual basis more precisely in the future. Furthermore, they should go even further in their endeavours to mobilise concepts and theories from the research regions by giving more consideration to indigenous frameworks and notions.

The research unit is rated as "very good".

Subdivision IV – Contested Religion and Intellectual Culture

[13.1 FTE, of whom 5.2 FTE research and scientific services staff, 3 postdoctoral fellows, 2.7 FTE doctoral candidates, 2.3 FTE science support staff – furthermore 1.5 FTE student assistants]

This unit, which first took up work in 2020, builds on its roots as the former REMOBOKO junior research group previously located in Research Unit I. It applies findings of the junior research group on how religion, morality and intellectual culture interact in the lives of students in West Africa to a broader research scope including other parts of the world as well.

As is to be expected, the research work of those team members who were already involved in the REMOBOKO group together appears highly interconnected. It is good to see that the new members' projects fit in very well too, helping to broaden and enrich the original scope of REMOBOKO in interesting ways. Together, the unit has the potential to gain valuable additional insights by also exploring multi-religious contexts that had not been considered before. A number of articles have already been published successfully, predominantly in the context of regional studies of West Africa and South Asia. For future publications, it might be a good idea to target more general, interdisciplinary audiences as well.

In terms of concepts, the members of the unit are on a good path, taking up additional, interreligious concepts from their research regions to add to those from the West African and Islamic traditions it originally focused on. This appears very promising, and their findings could fruitfully be discussed in connection with general debates around spirituality or secularism. As this unit generates a significant amount of valuable digital data, the envisioned venture into digital humanities appears to be a particularly rewarding enterprise here.

The research unit is rated as "very good".

Subdivision V – Cross-cutting, Exploratory, and Supplementary Research

[13.2 FTE, of whom 4.8 FTE research and scientific services staff, 1 postdoctoral fellow, 5.3 FTE doctoral candidates, 2.1 FTE science support staff – furthermore 1.5 FTE student assistants]

As detailed in chapter 4, the ZMO is ambitious and very successful at acquiring third-party funding. Consequently, the centre hosts a number of impressive research projects supported by very prestigious funding bodies. As many of these projects are pursued outside the main scope of the current research programme, they are structurally assigned to Research Unit V and described as supplementary research.

Additionally, from an administrative point of view, the unit hosts any other research and knowledge transfer activities at the ZMO that lie outside the current thematic focus of the four regular research units or address more general, cross-cutting topics.

While the results in themselves are convincing, their assignment to this unit makes it appear somewhat overloaded in terms of structure and scope. This could be remedied by a structural review, as discussed in chapter 3.

8. Handling of recommendations of the last external evaluation

The ZMO has successfully addressed the recommendations made by the German Council of Science and Humanities in 2016 (see Status Report, p. A-22 f.) regarding the establishment of a Vice-Director position / W3 professorship for social anthropology and regarding permanent employment contracts for scientific employees.

The library team has not been expanded so far. However, there are now plans for an application for additional institutional funding to make the extensive collections managed by the library digitally accessible.

The review board has reiterated the recommendation by the German Council of Science and Humanities to adjust the centre's internal organisational structure in line with long-term institutional funding, and encourages the ZMO to make full use of its opportunities.

Appendix

1. Review Board

Chair (Member of the Leibniz Senate Evaluation Committee)

Andreas **Fahrmeir** Institute of History, Goethe University
Frankfurt am Main

Deputy Chair (Member of the Leibniz Senate Evaluation Committee)

Volker **Rodekamp** Stadtgeschichtliches Museum Leipzig, Dir. i. R.

Reviewers

Roland **Hardenberg** Department of Social and Cultural
Anthropology, University of Frankfurt am
Main

Kerstin Susanne **Jobst** Institute of East European History, University
of Vienna

Hannu **Juusola** Middle Eastern Studies, University of
Helsinki

Teresa **Koloma Beck** Sociology, Helmut Schmidt University
Hamburg

Gabrielle **Lynch** Politics and International Studies, University
of Warwick

Jamal **Malik** Department of Religious Studies, University of
Erfurt

Sabelo J. **Ndlovu-Gatsheni** Epistemologies of the Global South &
“Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence”,
University of Bayreuth

Representative of the federal government

[absent with apologies]

*Representative of the Länder governments (member of the Leibniz Senate Evaluation
Committee)*

[absent with apologies]

21 October 2022

Annex C: Statement of the Institution on the Evaluation Report

Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin (ZMO)

The directors and the Advisory Board of Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient wish to thank the Review Board for their time to study our documents and for the very constructive discussions during the evaluation. We also thank the evaluation section of the Leibniz Association for their time and effort in preparing and conducting the review process.

The recognition of the high quality of research conducted at ZMO, and its successful third-party funding efforts are particularly appreciated. We note with pleasure that the planning for additional institutional funding is welcomed by the Review Board. ZMO recognises the need to find adequate space for the unique special collection, which is intrinsically connected to research at ZMO since its foundation, as well as through ties of biography and personal trust. There is adequate empty space for storing the analogue materials of the special collection in the building, but due to time constraints, the Review Board could not inspect these rooms in the basement. ZMO will now commission an independent review of these rooms as storage facilities. Apart from the fact that many collections are entrusted specifically to ZMO because of long-term relations of trust, and can hence not easily be transferred elsewhere, in-house storage will allow ZMO researchers and guest fellows working with the special collection simultaneous access to a specialised library and regional experts. ZMO is also conducting talks with the senate and a number of Berlin-based institutions to find further solutions for storage, since the special collection grows consistently. Only digitized sources shall be hosted externally (an agreement for permanently hosting such sources was recently signed with the Verbundzentrale (VZG) des Gemeinsamen Bibliotheksverbundes (GBV) in Göttingen, and the network of visitors and users of the library and special collection should continue to function as a place of academic exchange. The STB application explicitly contains the position of a curator for the collection. Many of the answers to further questions are specified in the more comprehensive final version.

We highly value the recognition of our longstanding efforts to work in close collaboration with international scholars. Yet it must be noted that ZMO's statutory mission is that of a research institute. Hence, the manner in which the institute serves as a "hub for interdisciplinary humanities and social science discussion on Muslim societies" (or, "social research infrastructure") is necessarily shaped by its research objectives. Through adopting a framework for exchanges and discussions that follows our research structures, we have been able to build a strong, worldwide network which we will continue to develop and cultivate. We feel encouraged to strengthen these exchanges with regard to concepts and theories as much as with regard to concrete research questions.

Finally, we thank the Review Board for the structural and programmatic suggestions. We will feed them into our review process of phase 1 of the current re-search programme (2020 - 2024). This review is also made more urgent by the recent acceptance of one further ERC Consolidator Grant and a second Leibniz Collaborative Excellence Grant and the resultant changes in personnel.