

Dissertation Abstract

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Reception and Tradierung as Complex Networks.

THE CENSUS AND VISUAL DOCUMENTS ON THE IMPERIAL BATHS IN ROME.

The present book investigates phenomena of the *Nachleben* of ancient monuments in visual depictions. In this context, Reception defines the relation of documents to the depicted monument while Tradierung denotes documents referring to each other, such as in (implicit) visual citation. Analyzing two datasets — the *Census of Antique Works of Art and Architecture Known in the Renaissance* and a collection of *Visual Documents on the Imperial Baths in Rome* — the study provides evidence for the fact that we can understand the processes of Reception and Tradierung as complex networks in the sense of discrete mathematics.

Concerning method, the present investigation bridges Art History, Archaeology and the Science of Complex

Networks — resulting in a seamless approach combining qualitative and quantitative analysis in which single documents, scholarly articles as well as entire databases are subject to equivalent critical appraisal. Beyond practical application, the explanation of relevant concepts originating in the fields of cognition and networks provides a foundation for the proposed approach.

Results with regards to content are relevant to the fields of Art History as well as Archeology, relating to ‚Nachleben‘ in general and Roman imperial baths in particular. Beyond that, the approach presented here provides a starting point for further investigations on complex networks in art research.

The book has been published in German language:

Maximilian Schich: *Rezeption und Tradierung als Komplexes Netzwerk. Der CENSUS und visuelle Dokumente zu den Thermen in Rom.* (Diss. HU-Berlin, May 2, 2007) Munich: Verlag Biering & Brinkmann 2009.

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