

ГОДИШНИК НА СОФИЙСКИЯ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ „СВ. КЛИМЕНТ ОХРИДСКИ“

ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ ФАКУЛТЕТ

Том 106, 2021 – 2022

ANNUAL OF SOFIA UNIVERSITY “ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI”

FACULTY OF HISTORY

Volume 106, 2021 – 2022

---

## THE HISTORICAL DISCIPLINES IN FAVOUR OF THE FUTURE

Dear colleague,  
hereby I am sending you the asked short message and excuse me for the delay.  
Best wishes and thank you again for all effort in favour of the celebration of the anniversaries

Harald Heppner

### **Sofia Perspectives, 21. 5. 2022**

High representatives of the University of Sofia,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear colleagues,

First let me thank the organisers for inviting me to participate in this ceremony. Last time I was in this building, in 2015, I received the title of Doctor of honoris causa.

My message for the historical disciplines in favour of the future consists of five points:

#### 1. Global context

The trend of globalization started only in the sixteenth century. We have to suppose that this trend will continue as such. Therefore, it seems to be recommendable to understand the local and regional historical subjects not only as singular ones, but as a puzzle of knowledge stones of something larger and longer. Bulgaria does not exist for itself, but as an integral part of Europe.

## 2. Interdisciplinarity

To better understand the connections among the singular historical processes we should not continue the practice of working in a separated manner: The interdisciplinary approach (including geography, psychology, theology, philosophy, ethnology and so on) may broaden our horizons not only in favour of more knowledge but also in favour of new questions and intellectual challenges.

## 3. History like a series of actions

History, as the always growing sum of *pictures to the past*, does not consist of separated moments. History may be compared to a film, which must be shown as a permanent change of scenes. The big difference to the film projection is that in history there are not any technical machines which make the moves, it is always men – as subjects or objects of the processes. Therefore, we should focus more on all kinds of acting and not so much on stationary situations.

## 4. Enlightenment

With the „invention“ of the enlightenment a new kind of world understanding began. Neither any religious nor any ideological approaches should dominate our work than the empirically won knowledge and its documentation. Therefore, we should keep in mind that all non scientific reflections on the past are quite problematic.

## 5. Popularisation of history

The world wide permanent growing knowledge on history may not be overseen and understood by the majority of the society. Therefore, in favour of giving the general public some orientation we must activate the popularisation of history. Otherwise the day might come, when the public asks the historians: Why do we still need you?

Thank you very much for your attention and best wishes for the time until the next anniversary!