Prof. Dr. Jürgen Renn

Personal details

Position	Director at the Max-Planck-Institute for the History of Science, Berlin Honorary Professor at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Institution	Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte
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Nationality	German

Education

1987	Ph.D. in mathematical physics, Technische Universität Berlin
1983-1986	Study and Research in Rome, Princeton, Paris, Boston
1983	Diploma (M.S.) in Physics, Freie Universität Berlin

Professional Experience

since 2006	Honorary Professor for History of Science, Freie Universität Berlin
since 1998	Adjunct Professor for Philosophy and Physics at Boston University
since 1995	Honorary Professor for History of Science, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
since 1994	Director at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin
1993-1994	Visiting Professor of Philosophy at the ETH, Zurich (replacement for Paul Feyerabend) and University of Tel Aviv
1991-1996	Co-director, Arbeitsstelle Albert Einstein at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development and Educational Research
1991	Foundation of an international consortium for new technologies in the history of science (DFG and the Italian Ministry for Research)
1990-1992	Associate of the Department of Physics, Harvard University
1989-1992	Associate and Adjunct Professor for Philosophy and Physics at Boston University and Cooperation with the Collected Papers of Albert Einstein

Research interests and scientific Focus

Main	Structural changes in systems of knowledge in the natural sciences
Other	Longitudinal studies of the emergence and development of mechanical thinking; Studies into the transformation of classical into modern physics; Transversal studies of the globalization of knowledge
Current	Comparative studies of the emergence and development of mechanical thinking in Europe and China; Studies on the relativity revolution, in particular the genesis of general relativity, projects on the history of quantum physics, the epistemic history of architecture; Jesuit Science; Globalization of knowledge; Electronic research infrastructures

Further professional qualifications

Awards

2014	ESHS Neuenschwander Prize
2014	Premio Internazionale "Marco & Alberto Ippolito", Sezione cultura
2014	Francis Bacon Prize
2014	Max Planck Communitas Prize
2011	Premio Anassilaos International 2011
1998	PIRELLI InterNetional Award

Fellowships

2016	Visiting scholar at Caltech
1992	Visiting scholar at the Forschungsschwerpunkt Wissenschaftsgeschichte und Wissenschaftstheorie der Gesellschaft für wissenschaftliche Neuvorhaben of the Max Planck Society in Berlin
1988-1989	Fellow, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin
1988	Fellow, Italian Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche in Rome
1988	Fellow, Fritz Thyssen Foundation, Berlin

Memberships

various national and international Scientific Advisory Boards and Editorial Boards
Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina
Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft

Research projects (selection)

since 2014	History of the Max Planck Society	Max Planck Society
since 2012	Probability on classical and quantum mechanics	MPIWG / German Israeli Foundation
since 2009	The Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative	Mellon Foundation
since 2008	Excellence Cluster Topoi – The Formation and Transformation of Space and Knowledge in Ancient Civilizations	DFG (Excellence Initiative)
2006-2010	Knowledge and Belief in Early Modern Science (Jesuits on Statics, Dynamics, Mathematics and Astronomy between Galileo and Newton)	MPIWG / German Israeli Foundation
since 2006	History and Foundations of Quantum Physics	Innovation fond of the President of the Max Planck Society
since 2005	CRC 644 Transformations of Antiquity	DFG
since 2005	CRC 980 Episteme in Motion	DFG
since 2002	European Heritage Online Project	EU (2002-2004) MPIWG (since 2004)
2002-2009	Epistemic History of Architecture	DFG, NSF
1998-2005	ARCHIMEDES (Realizing the vision of an open digital research library for the study of long-term developments in the history of mechanics	

Publications (selection)

1. *Globalization of Knowledge in the Post-Antique Mediterranean*, 700–1500. London (2016), editor with Sonja Brentjes.
2. *The Road to Relativity: The History and Meaning of Einstein's "The Foundation of General Relativity."* Princeton (2015), co-author with H. Gutfreund.
3. Arch and scaffold: How Einstein found his field equations. *Physics Today* (November 2015) 30–36, co-author with M. Janssen.
4. *The Globalization of Knowledge in History*. Studies 1: Max Planck Research Library for the History and Development of Knowledge. Berlin (2012), editor.
5. *The Equilibrium Controversy. Guidobaldo del Monte's Critical Notes on the Mechanics of Jordanus and Benedetti and their Historical and Conceptual Background.* Sources 2: Max Planck Research Library for the History and Development of Knowledge. Berlin (2012), co-author with P. Damerow.
6. "The Transformation of Ancient Mechanics into a Mechanistic World View", in: G. Toepfer – H. Böhme (eds.), *Transformationen antiker Wissenschaften*. Berlin (2010) 243–267, co-author with P. Damerow.
7. *Guidobaldo del Monte's Mechanicorum Liber*, Sources 1: Max Planck Research Library in the History and Development of Knowledge. Berlin (2010), co-author with P. Damerow.

8. “Learning from Einstein: Innovation in Science”. In: P. L. Galison – G. Holton – S. S. Schweber (eds.), *Einstein for the 21st Century: His Legacy in Science, Art, and Modern Culture*. Princeton (2008) 239–256.
9. *The Genesis of General Relativity* (Vols. 1–4), Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science, vol. 250. Dordrecht (2007), editor.
10. “Mentale Modelle als kognitive Instrumente der Transformation von technischem Wissen”, in: H. Böhme (ed.), *Übersetzungen und Transformationen. Transformationen der Antike*. Berlin (2007) 311–331, co-author with P. Damerow.11. *Albert Einstein Chief Engineer of the Universe* (3 Volumes). Berlin (2005), editor.
12. *Exploring the Limits of Preclassical Mechanics. A Study of Conceptual Development in Early Modern Science: Free Fall and Compounded Motion in the Work of Descartes, Galileo, and Beeckman*. New York (2004), co-author with P. Damerow, G. Freudenthal, and P. McLaughlin.
13. *Homo Faber: Nature, Technology and Science at the Time of Pompeii*. Rome (2001), co-edited with G. Castagnetti.