

Anthroposophy and the Science of the Literary Arts and Humanities (SLAH)

status: ongoing

Research Question and Background

A transition into spiritual scientific research of the individual disciplines of the Literary Arts and Humanities (literary studies, art history, history, philosophy, linguistics, etc.) needs to be made within a scientific frame of reference. From its subject of investigation, it must be so comprehensible that it does not represent a breach of knowledge. For this to succeed, it is necessary to clarify what spiritual scientific research is, on which preconditions it is based and what the respective academic-scientific approaches contribute to it. This follow-up question arises when research in the humanities can expand and stimulate academic research in individual areas.

In *The Theory of Knowledge Implicit in Goethe's World Conception* and later in various lectures on the subject, Rudolf Steiner repeatedly referred to the need for connecting academic science and spiritual science. He developed perspectives for the natural sciences, history and the social sciences, as well as philosophy, linguistics and psychology. Little is available for literary and art studies. It is important to continue developing the indications of Steiner - a desideratum of today's scientific society even more so than it was 100 years ago.

Perspective and Relevance

Every assertion nowadays must be scientifically substantiated. It is essential today not to defend/justify the scientific nature of Anthroposophy, but to demonstrate it, in that spiritual sci-

entific methods can be developed from knowledge of the respective method. Anthroposophy otherwise becomes a question of faith and drops out of social discourse. The ongoing attacks on Anthroposophy can be invalidated with an expanded and well-founded understanding of science.

Approach, Cooperation and Time Frame

In the Literary Arts and Humanities, we have taken up this theme in various conferences and colloquia. In philosophy, there is an ongoing working context, Rudolf Steiner's original achievement as a philosopher. There are collaborations with various university lecturers at international universities who are active in spiritual scientific research. Joint working forums for the individual disciplines are to be set up for history, literature, linguistics and art studies - such as the one that already exists for philosophy on the subject of 'Rudolf Steiner's original contribution to philosophy' and for which a publication is planned. Interdisciplinary conferences will be held.

Literature

P. Heusser: *Anthroposophy and Science, An Introduction*. 2016, Peter Lang GmbH, DOI: 10.3726/978-3-653-06753-8K; K.M. Dietz/B. Messmer: *Grenzen erweitern - Wirklichkeit erfahren. Perspektiven Anthroposophischer Forschung*, Stuttgart 1998. (In German) [**Expanding Boundaries - Experiencing Reality. Perspectives of Anthroposophical Research*]