

Session: The Family Doctor and Medical Uncertainty

Thursday 24 May, 11:30 – 13:00

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ADAM - a new Archive of German-speaking General Practice

The presentation describes a new Archive, documenting the development of general practice (GP) as a medical specialization of its own right and institutional status in German-speaking countries (Austria, Germany and Switzerland) at the University of Lübeck, Germany.

Valuable historic material from the pioneer period of GP and documenting the development of the German-language variant of its development is spread across different countries and institutions – or must be expected to exist only in privately owned copies.

In addition, the development differed from country to country. The Austria-born Robert Braun, for example, started a particularly strong and lasting initiative for GP.

Another important facet is the different trajectories of GP in East and West Germany: In East Germany, GP was introduced and professionalized in the year 1961, whereas the academic birth of GP started in West Germany five years later with the teaching assignment of MD Siegfried Häussler at the University of Freiburg.

The (Western) German Medical Association introduced the specialization "General Practitioner" as late as 1968.

So far, an archive of GP has not yet been established in Germany, but time is pressing, as many of the first-generation actors have reached advanced age.

With them, a huge amount of the unique information about the professionalization of GP is at risk to be extinguished.

Therefore, ADAM is implemented to safeguard historic documents, to digitalize them, and to collaborate with other archives and institutions to with the aim to foster research on the history and development of GP.