

# THE HERO PRINCIPLE

universität freiburg



DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft



Rimini Protokoll

MILITÄR HISTORISCHES MUSEUM

Flugplatz Berlin-Gatow

## EDUCATION OFFERS

### Public guided tours

Guided tour **"What makes a hero?"**

Every Sunday at 4.00pm

60 minutes | for everyone | no registration

### For children

Summer break programme **Prinzip Held\* (The Hero Principle)**

Puzzle magazine, food, and crafting workshop

23 July, 31 July, 22 August, and 30 August 2024 |

10.00am-3.00pm

Groups or individual visitors of ages 8-12 |

registration required

Puzzle magazine **Prinzip Held\* (The Hero Principle)**

Available free of charge at the entrance |

for children aged 8 and above | no registration

### For school groups

Guided Tour **"What makes a hero?"**

60 minutes | school classes 9-13 | registration required

### For Bundeswehr members

Workshop **"Obedience and Resistance"**

5.5 hours incl. lunch break | registration required

Guided tour **"What makes a hero?"**

60 minutes | registration required

### Visitor Service:

Telephone: +49 30 / 3687-2666, -2673

E-mail: mhmgatowfuehrungen@bundeswehr.org

The exhibition is a cooperation between the *Sonderforschungsbereich* (SFB, or Collaborative Research Centre) 948 at the Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg, the Bundeswehr Centre of Military History and Social Sciences (ZMSBw), and the Berlin-Gatow Airfield branch of the Bundeswehr Museum of Military History, produced by *Rimini Protokoll*. It is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

### Bundeswehr Museum of Military History Berlin-Gatow Airfield

Am Flugplatz Gatow 33, 14089 Berlin

Free admission

[mhmgatow.de](http://mhmgatow.de)

### Opening hours:

Tuesday to Sunday,

10.00am-6.00pm

Closed on Mondays

### How to reach us:

Bus route 135

alight at Seekorso bus stop

Parking is free of charge



# PRINZIP



THE HERO PRINCIPLE  
Of Heroizations and Heroism

Special exhibition  
June 21 - November 3, 2024



picture-alliance / ZUMA PRESS.com | Ximena Borrazas



picture-alliance / dpa - conceptual / dpa - US Army



picture-alliance / ZB | Britta Petersen

## PRINZIP HELD\* (THE HERO PRINCIPLE)

Alexander, King of small Macedon, became Alexander the Great. Swedish school girl Greta Thunberg has developed into one of the most influential climate activists world-wide. Both, regardless of how controversial they may be, share the following: their deeds turned into accounts, accounts into publicity, and publicity into common admiration, identification, or attitude: Heroisation!

From time immemorial, collective patterns of attitude, ideologies, or strategies have been the reason why there has been a need for heroes and heroines. They are created through heroisation. This Hero Principle involves various components, which to some extent appear in all kinds of heroisation.

Based on these components, the exhibition *Prinzip Held\** (The Hero Principle) explores the core issue: What is a heroine or a hero? And what do all heroic stories have in common – even though the people in question often seem not to share any common denominators?

Researchers at the *Sonderforschungsbereich* (SFB, or Collaborative Research Centre) "Heroes – Heroisations – Heroisms" at the University of Freiburg have examined tales of heroes and heroisations from different time periods, cultures, and contexts. They have selected typical but also surprising cases for this exhibition.

## THE EXHIBITION

The spectacular setting for this exhibition is a landmark aircraft Hangar at the Berlin-Gatow Airfield branch of the Military History Museum. *Prinzip Held\** (The Hero Principle) is designed and presented by the theatre group Rimini Protokoll and scenographer Dominik Steinmann. Their design transfers images and audio-visual media into learning spaces to enter and engage with.

Lockers, desks, or roll-fronted cabinets made of decommissioned Bundeswehr furniture have been used to create a research landscape that dissolves the academic aspect of the hero theme without dispersing it. The furniture serves presentation purposes and may therefore be touched and opened. At the same time, with its sculptural alienation, the furniture is a symbolical translation of each respective case study. This presentation challenges the appeal of the heroic, while the visitors analyse its components with the exhibition tools at hand.

At the end of the visit, the public may create a new heroic character for themselves: The figure emerges from the skylights of the hangar as a gigantic, abstract shape. In the complex network of heroisations, everything is connected with one another, including the visitors of the exhibition.

## PUBLICATION

The guide to accompany the exhibition is available in bookstores.

Wallstein Verlag  
German / English  
ISBN: 978-3-8353-5581-1



## HEROES. HEROINES. TODAY. INVITATION TO A CRITICAL DEBATE.

Public panel discussion to conclude the *DFG-Sonderforschungsbereich* (German Research Foundation Collaborative Research Centre) 948 "Heroes – Heroisations – Heroisms. Transformations and Conjunctions from Ancient Times to Modernity" by the University of Freiburg im Breisgau (2012–2024) with René Aguigah (German national broadcaster Deutschlandfunk), Susan Neiman (Einstein Forum Potsdam), Friederike Pannewick (University of Marburg), and Ralf von den Hoff (SFB 948).

**Stadtmuseum Berlin – BERLIN GLOBAL at the Humboldt Forum, 21 June 2024, 4.00pm–6.00pm**