

A first step towards a permanently focused dialog



(dw) The purpose of genealogical societies is the joint research of historical families. Traditionally, Germans deal with members of their own families in closer or further access, but too often concrete knowledge and memory about parts of the family that eventually emigrated is missing. Often there are also areas of origin that no longer belong to Germany today, which makes research even more difficult. Doesn't it make sense to bring people of the same origin and common interests together, especially worldwide? The Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft genealogischer Verbände e. V. (DAGV) as a national umbrella organization and the International German Genealogy Partnership (IGGP) as an international umbrella organization pursue the goal of establishing connections and filling them with life. Despite or even because of the pandemic, new forms of communication today open up undreamt-of opportunities to establish and expand contacts. More and more, national and international perspectives are merging in genealogy. This is exactly when something new can emerge.

On December 2, 2020, the 1st IGGP-ResearchDialogue by DAGV took a big step towards a permanently focused dialogue of researchers of a certain area or topic. DAGV board member Freya Rosan could be won over for this new form of event. Under the heading "Family Research in East and West Prussia - Finding Roots Across Borders" she was able to present the so valuable work of "her" VFFOW to a German and international audience. In contrast to usual practice, the event was not only about a lecture, but also about the dialogical answering of research questions. Although initially announced only in German, Freya Rosan increasingly began to give presentations and answer questions in English. In the opinion of the organizers and positive feedback from the 80 participants from Germany, the USA, Brazil and Australia - i.e. from four continents - this 1st IGGP-ResearchDialogue was a complete success.

For the vision of a focused close genealogical cooperation, the event was a first step towards a lasting dialogue, related to a specific research and origin area. Further focal points will follow. The exchange of as many genealogists as possible will hopefully intensify because people are eager to learn from each other – despite some language barriers.

One of the many messages of the event was that the most important source for joint research is the expertise in the associations. Freya Rosan recommended herself and the membership in the VFFOW to the participants in an excellent way.

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