

**PD Dr. phil. habil Stefan Gerber**

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**Japan and Weimar-Jena: Relations in the 19th and Early 20th Century**

**Keynote**

The Keynote speech focuses on three thematic areas. First, it presents the great interest of the Weimar Grand Duke of the years 1853–1901, Carl Alexander of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach, in Japan and Japanese culture, as well as his extensive connections to Japan, not least also to the Japanese imperial house. A second focus lies on cultural intermediaries between Weimar–Jena and Japan, especially on the diplomat, publicist, and translator Alexander von Siebold. Third the keynote centers on Japanese students and doctoral candidates: their paths in Jena and Weimar exemplify the forms, themes, and challenges of cultural exchange between Japan and Thuringia in the late 19th and 20th centuries.

**CV**

Stefan Gerber (born 1975) studied history and German studies at the University of Jena from 1995 to 2000. From 2001 to 2003, he was a doctoral scholarship holder of the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes (German Academic Scholarship Foundation). In 2003, he completed his doctorate with a study on university administration and the organization of science in the 19th century. From 2003 to 2009 and 2010 to 2013, he was a research associate at the Historical Institute of the University of Jena, interrupted by a fellowship at the Historisches Kolleg in Munich in 2009/10. In 2013, he completed his habilitation in Jena with a book on Catholicism in the Weimar Republic. This was followed by substitute professorships at the universities of Mainz and Bonn from 2013 to 2015. From 2015 to 2020, he headed the Research Center for Modern Regional History of Thuringia at the University of Jena. Since 2020, he has been Head of the University Archives and the research center for university history at the University of Jena.

His research focuses on the history of universities and scholarship from the 18th to the 20th century, the history of political and social Catholicism in the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as comparative regional and state history.