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Conflicting virtues of scholarship : moral economies in late nineteenth-century German Academia

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Propositions

1. The emerging body of historical scholarship on scholarly virtues does not yet sufficiently reflect on the possibility that widely appreciated scholarly virtues can come into conflict with one another.
2. In their relationships with individuals academics, scholarly institutions, as well as non-academic parties, late 19th-century German scholars had to balance collegial loyalty and critical independence continuously.
3. Attempts to write separate histories of the sciences and the humanities do not sufficiently account for the complex, entangled histories of a wide range of both past and modern-day research programs and disciplines.
4. In order to understand the many ways in which virtues relate to each other, a cross-disciplinary comparison of how virtues were defined and calibrated is particularly helpful.
5. Peer evaluations of humanities scholarship in Wilhelmine Germany often went into more detail than evaluations of collaborative, experimental research carried out in laboratory settings
6. A widely shared editorial starting point among editors of late 19th-century German scholarly periodicals was the determination to prevent prolonged debate on the pages of their journals.
7. Late 19th-century German book reviewers used their reviews not only to evaluate the merits of books, but also to pass judgement on the virtues and vices of their authors.
8. In the late 19th and early 20th century, the quality and quantity of published scholarly work was only a minor consideration in the decisions regarding professorial appointments made by the Prussian Ministry of Education.
9. Like their 19th-century predecessors, modern-day scholars still find themselves constantly re-evaluating and recalibrating a balance between scholarly virtues.
10. The tendency to reduce debates about the trustworthiness of modern-day scholarship to discussions about narrowly-defined notions of peer review ignores the continued significance of many centuries-old ways of evaluating scholars and scholarship.
11. The value of personal friendship in both 19th-century and 21st-century academia should not be underestimated.