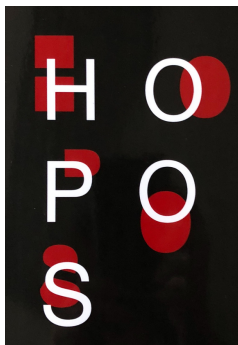


# DESCRIPTIVE PSYCHOLOGY AND VÖLKERPSYCHOLOGIE



Special Issue

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The nineteenth century saw the emergence of two inter-related approaches, Völkerpsychologie and Descriptive Psychology, methods of the humanities ('Geisteswissenschaften') with history as the main target. Völkerpsychologie and Descriptive Psychology were meant to provide novel methods that would make possible scientific analyses of historical processes. Possible topics include:

- Key contributions of Chaim H. Steinthal, Moritz Lazarus, and Wilhelm Dilthey;
- Historical analyses of the reception of these movements. Figures they influenced include Hermann Cohen, Gustav Glogau, Georg Simmel, Wilhelm Wundt, Karl Mannheim, Paul Natorp, Rudolf Carnap, and Georg Spranger.
- The current relevance of Völkerpsychologie and Descriptive Psychology. Judged by today's standards, Völkerpsychologie was an early form of sociology. But its contributions to sociology have not been given serious scholarly attention. Descriptive Psychology was often presented as a way of conducting philosophical inquiry in an empirical manner, an approach relevant to subsequent developments in epistemology and philosophy of science.

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