

Klaus SACHS-HOMBACH

*Epistemic Functions of Pictures
Some Conceptual Preliminaries*

It is widely indisputable that images, beyond their much praised knowledge-imparting (didactic) functions, can also perform knowledge-promoting (epistemic) functions. An epistemic function in the narrower sense does, regarding images, essentially occur in three variants: Images can become epistemically relevant as empirical basis, for purposes of illustrating contexts of justification or within contexts of origination. Subsequent to a brief outline of these different possibilities, my lecture will consider a few problems linked to said possibilities and concerning especially the correlation between visualization and genesis of knowledge. This will be closely related to the subject of pictorial rhetoric.

Klaus SACHS-HOMBACH, born in 1957, studied philosophy, psychology and German language and literature at the University of Münster. After his PhD in 1990 at the University of Münster and his habilitation in 2003 at the University of Magdeburg he was appointed professor of philosophy, focussed on cognitive science, at the TU Chemnitz in 2007. Since October 2011, he holds the chair of media studies at the University of Tübingen. Some main publications: *Philosophische Psychologie im 19. Jahrhundert*, Freiburg: Alber, 1993; *Das Bild als kommunikatives Medium: Elemente einer allgemeinen Bildwissenschaft*, Köln: Halem, 2003; *Was ist Bildkompetenz?* Wiesbaden: DUV, 2003 (as editor); *Wege zur Bildwissenschaft: Interviews*, Köln: Halem, 2004; *Bildwissenschaft zwischen Reflexion und Anwendung*, Köln: Halem, 2005 (as editor); *Bild und Medium: Kunstgeschichtliche und philosophische Grundlagen der interdisziplinären Bildwissenschaft*, Köln: Halem, 2006 (as editor); *Bildwissenschaft: Disziplinen, Themen und Methoden*, Frankfurt/Main: Suhrkamp, 2005 (as editor); *Bildtheorien: Anthropologische und kulturelle Grundlagen des visualistic turn*, Frankfurt/Main: Suhrkamp, 2009 (as editor); *Origins of Pictures*, Köln: Halem, 2013 (as editor, with Jörg Schirra). E-mail: klaus.sachs-hombach@uni-tuebingen.de.

