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Dr. Wolfgang Grams

Portrait

Dr. Grams is the founder (1996), owner and managing director of his privately run institute "Routes to the Roots, Research and Travel (RsRs)." The institute emerged from a research project headed by Dr. Grams, then professor at the Department for Political Sciences at Oldenburg University. RsRs carries out historical biographical research, designs databases, exhibits and cultural projects with focus on the migration experience and conducts field trips and excursions. Dr. Grams teaches in German American Studies and in Cultural Tourism, conducts workshops, seminars and lectures in these fields.

Dr. Grams was a research consultant, project planner and content acquisitionist for Ancestry.de Deutschland GmbH, Munich until February 2017. He has served this company as a contractor and project designer since 2004 starting with the implementation of Ancestry.de in Germany to building up content and managing co-operations with German archives for the ancestry.de website.

He was a consultant for the German Nat. Tourist Office New York and Frankfurt, for the Deutsche Tourismusverband and the German Ministry for Economic Affairs, Berlin to promote cultural heritage projects in seminars, workshops, conceptual studies and print and online media.

Dr. Grams was author of a World EXPO 2000 concept "Auswanderung über Bremen und Bremerhaven" and co-planner for the German Emigration Center / Deutsches Auswandererhaus in Bremerhaven. He was curator of the EXPO 2000 exhibit "Abenteuer Spurensuche", academic adviser and researcher of biographical portraits for the German Emigration Centers's exhibit until its opening in 2005.

Funded by the European Union (1993 -1996) Dr. Grams was founder and chairman of a European network "Routes to the Roots" consisting of specialized museums and research centers in Germany, the Netherlands, England, Ireland, Greece, Poland and Scandinavia, members of the Association of European Migration Institutions (AEMI).

Dr. Grams has organized many educational tours both for Americans to Germany and for Germans to America and through his academic work and heritage projects has developed a network for research and travel among heritage societies, museums and individuals in Germany and in the US.

He has received his PhD (Dr. phil.) in 1990 at Oldenburg University in the field of German 18th century literature and lectured in this field at the Department for German Literature at Bremen University from 1990 - 1992.