

*The Alternative History
of the Upper Palatinate –
An example of potential
new perspectives on
local history*

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The Alternative History of the Upper Palatinate – An example of potential new perspectives on local history

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Abstract. The question ‘What if’ allows new views of the local history, such as that of the Bavarian region Upper Palatinate. With the methods of source criticism and Alternative History, the paper analyses and illustrates that local Alternative History has potential in the perspectives for intertwining between local historical events and history beyond the region; rediscovering ‘lost’ parts of local history; improving the understanding of past decisions, and clarifying the possibilities for the present and future. It also highlights that further and detailed research of local historical developments is required to create plausible Alternative History landscapes for these perspectives.

Keywords: History, Alternative History, Local History, Bavaria, Upper Palatinate, Ankerpunkte Blog

1. Introduction

The Upper Palatinate is a rural region in Eastern Bavaria and one of the seven districts of Bavaria. Bavaria is a federal state in the southeast of the Federal Republic of Germany. It borders Southern and Southeast Austria and the Eastern Czech Republic. The map displayed in Figure 1 illustrates the location of the Upper Palatinate in Germany and shows the cities mentioned in the paper.

The district has a long local history, but many local historical events are widely unknown. For example, while it is relatively well known that Regensburg became a free and imperial city in 1245, multiple developments that challenged this status until 1810 are relatively unknown [1]. The past of the Upper Palatinate has rarely been the subject of historiographical literature. Most research work deals with the local history of the respective towns and communities in the form of chronicles, newspaper articles, or interviews with contemporary witnesses. This form makes the local history relatively unknown or hardly comprehensible for a lay audience outside the respective towns and communities [1].

The research results of the *Ankerpunkte Blog* fill this gap by using Alternative History methods to present rather rarely noticed local history in a broad research gain. It is a private research project started in March 2020 by our own initiative [2]. The goals are to explain backgrounds of *real*, i.e., factual, history that have the potential for Alternative History, to review Alternative History literature, such as “Fatherland” by Robert Harris [3], to develop Alternative History scenarios, and to tell more literary alternative histories. The blog uses Alternative History to illustrate possible alternative courses of historical development and to test their plausibility [4].

By analysing the high access numbers of the

Ankerpunkte Blog with a total of 13,622 accesses since April 2020, this great interest in local history is due to the article “17 Punkte, an denen die Geschichte der Oberpfalz und Regensburgs anders gelaufen wäre (17 points where the History of the Upper Palatinate and Ratisbon would have been different)”. The article was first published in September 2020 and amounts to around 36 percent of all page impressions [5]. Based on this article, four possible perspectives of Alternative History for local history were introduced at the WhatIf’21 conference²:

- Alternative History can show the intertwining between local historical events and consequences for history beyond the region.
- Alternative History can make it possible to re-discover ‘lost’ parts of local history.
- Alternative History can improve understanding of past decisions.
- Alternative History can clarify possibilities for the present and future.

Following the *WhatIf’21* conference, this paper analyses these perspectives of Alternative History for local history in more detail against the background of the Upper Palatinate. First, the historical background of the Upper Palatinate is explained, as well as the methods of source criticism and Alternative History in German historiography. Afterward, the four perspectives are presented through one example each in the subsections of the *Results* discussion, followed by the *Conclusion and future perspectives*, and *Round Table Insight* sections.

1 <https://ankerpunkte-blog.de/autoren/>

2 1st International Conference of ‘What if?...’ World History: <https://whatif.fba.up.pt/>



Figure 1. Upper Palatinate Region with the cities of Nuremberg, Ratisbon, Amberg, Suizbach-Rosenberg and Weiden. Source: Author(s) with material from https://d-maps.com/carte.php?num_car=170363&lang=de.

2. Background

The Upper Palatinate has the second smallest population of 1.1 million persons of the seven districts of the Free State of Bavaria and is characterized primarily by agricultural land and forest areas. Ratisbon (Regensburg in the German language) is the capital and the only major city with 150,000 inhabitants [6]. This geographical focus is also evident in the local history of the Upper Palatinate known outside the region. Historically, Ratisbon is well-known because of its long history as the Romans founded it in AD 179. From 1663 to 1806, it was the seat of the *Perpetual Imperial Diet* of the Holy Roman Empire, the institutionalized estate's assembly of the empire [1].

The Upper Palatinate has significantly more important historical events, especially in the smaller towns and communities in the north of the capital with their diverse and long history [1], where written history begins mainly in the early Middle Ages since the year 550. Over long stretches of its history, the Upper Palatinate shows

a continuous territorial fragmentation. Thus, after the division of the Bavarian duchy with the House Treaty of Pavia in 1329, territories of the later district were divided among four different Bavarian partial duchies. In addition, the regional structure included other secular possessions such as those of the Palgraves of the Rhine, ecclesiastical territories such as the diocese of Ratisbon, and the Free and Imperial City of Ratisbon [1], as presented in Figure 2, where its fragmentation is shown in a map from 1496, even if it is a simplification. Besides the Palatinate County of the Rhine (grey), there are only two Bavarian dukedoms (Bavaria-Munich: ochre/Bavaria-Landshut: orange). The yellow area also shows different minor ecclesiastical and imperial city territories.

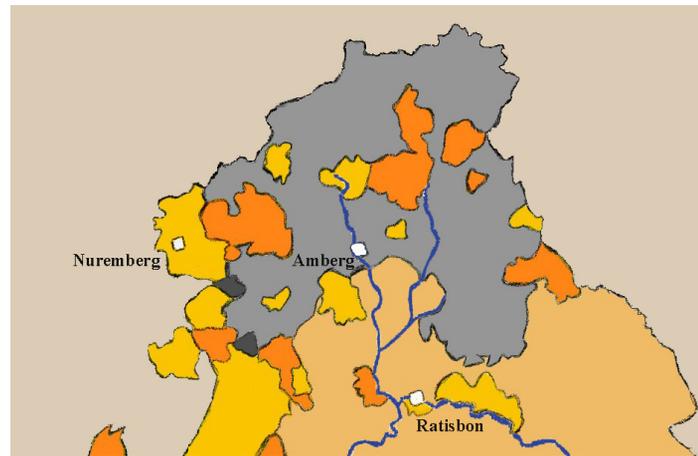


Figure 2. Fragmentation of the Upper Palatinate circa 1496. Source: Original work from Stephanie Reiner with material of the House of Bavarian History under <https://www.hdbg.eu/karten/karten/detail/id/93>.

This fragmentation into different political domains was partly detrimental. In the Age of the Reformation, the division of the Roman Church in the 16th century, bordering and intertwined territories changed denominations several times between Catholic, Protestant, and Calvinist, leading to expulsions and elite flight for denominational reasons [1]. In contrast, the smallness of the ter-

ritories was advantageous for the economic and cultural development of the relatively small towns. The heyday of Amberg extended into the 16th century when it occupied an important position as the capital of the regional possessions of the wealthy Palgraves of the Rhine, who as electors selected the emperor and were among the seven highest-ranking nobles in the empire. In this context, their heirs to the throne were familiarised with the affairs of government in Amberg [7]. From the name *Upper Palatinate* of these possessions the Bavarian government derived the name for the entire district [1]. This administrative unit, established in the 19th century, was primarily characterized by agriculture and forestry. Its location as a peripheral border area with the present-day Czech Republic led to economic difficulties, especially during the *Iron Curtain* [1]. After the end of this closed border in 1990, the economy in Eastern Bavaria recovered. Nowadays, the Upper Palatinate is one of the economically prosperous Bavarian regions [6].

3. Material and methods

In contrast, the local history of the Upper Palatinate is rarely the subject of research or publicity, even in Bavaria. Only a small number of current research literature deals with its local history [1, 7-8], and numerous publications come from local chroniclers or interviews with contemporary witnesses whose historiographical purpose is often unclear [1].

In this context, the methodology of source criticism is the main focus of the applied methods. Its objective is to gain historical knowledge by identifying the circumstances under which a historical source was created [9]. The university of Ratisbon divides the methodology into two parts: a) there is a formal examination of the external text form (when, where, and how the text was written); and b) a check of the internal content for credibility, concerning possible tendencies [9]. For instance, in a collection of contemporary

witnesses to the end of the Second World War in the Upper Palatinate, it was noticeable that local National Socialists were hardly mentioned [10].

Another method is Alternative History, which means to point out alternative courses of historical development and test them for plausibility. In German historiography, this methodology is highly controversial. In fact, in the 1980s, ancient historian Alexander Demandt (1937) justified the use of Alternative History, arguing that it was a means to realistically understand viewpoints in historical decision making [11]. Until the 2010s, this position remained an outsider position, still vehemently rejected as unscientific by large segments of German historians, as the economic and social historian Hubert Kiesewetter (1939). So, Demandt has remained the only renowned researcher known to a specific section of the public beyond the field of historical science to establish Alternative History as a methodology within German historical scholarship [11]. For this use of Alternative History, he formulated three preconditions [11]:

- Alternatives that are far from reality are unrealistic.
- Historical events are determined differently.
- Improbable events are isolated.

In summary, historians should pay attention to the facts and foundations of *real* history in Alternative History scenarios. Especially, speculation or wishful thinking is considered unscientific [11]. Demandt also introduced the following basic rules for such a scenario [11]:

- The scenario changes only one event in the historical development to ensure traceability over scientific speculation.
- The scenario focuses on a short period after the change to not drift into unsubstantiated speculations.
- Standards of the historical scholarship must remain assured so that scenarios contribute to understanding both within and outside of

academia.

In addition, Demandt encouraged historians to use Alternative History not only for standard scenarios, such as ‘What if Hitler had won the Second World War?’ from numerous pieces of literature like ‘Fatherland’ [3], but rather exploit the approach to explore little-known points in history [11]. The *Ankerpunkte Blog* followed this prompt with a background post about the Alternative History of the Upper Palatinate [5]. The high access numbers and many positive reactions showed that Alternative History has great potential at the level of local history [12].

4. Results

This potential can be seen in numerous new perspectives on Upper Palatinate local history through Alternative History. The article analy-

ses these potential perspectives in the following sections, each with a concrete case study. These perspectives focus on the aspects: intertwining between local historical events and history beyond the region; rediscovering lost parts of local history; improving the understanding of past decisions, and clarifying the possibilities for the present and future.

4.1 Alternative History and Upper Palatinate I: intertwining between local historical events and history beyond the region

To explore the new and potential perspective that Alternative History can bring to the Upper Palatinate local history regarding the intertwining between local historical events and history beyond

Table 1. Case Study for Alternative History and the intertwining between local historical events versus consequences for history beyond the region.

Date	Historical event	Historical divergence	Alternative outcome	Historical outcome	Regained data/ awareness	Further aspects of an Alternative History landscape
1245	The city of Ratisbon receives the status as a ‘free and imperial city’	What if the city had not attained imperial freedom?	The city remains the traditional centre of the Bavarian duchy. No economic isolation from the rest of the Upper Palatinate. It has virtually no chance of becoming the seat of the Imperial Diet.	Significance for the development of Bavaria in the Middle Ages with new centres in other cities such as Munich. The Holy Roman Empire could have used the city as for the Imperial Diet.	The scenario can show the intertwining of local history that linked it to the historical background of Bavaria and Germany.	Detailed exploration of the ruling rights within the city. Comparison with the development of the other residences of the Wittelsbach dynasty.

the region, we will focus in one case study displayed in Table 1.

The history of the Upper Palatinate shows numerous connections between events that seem to be limited to the local level. In 1245, the city of Ratisbon attained imperial freedom and officially left the domain of the Bavarian duchy as a *free and imperial city* [8].



Figure 3. Cathedral of Ratisbon. Source: own photo.

To prove the close intertwining between the local history of Ratisbon, Bavarian and German history, the What-if-Question would be: **What if the city had not received the freedom of the empire?**

This hypothesis is appropriate, because with the imperial freedom, a development culminated, that affected not only the local history of Ratisbon but also the Bavarian and German history in the Middle Ages. This development consisted of a long-term power struggle between the Ratisbon patricians, the Bavarian dukes, the German kings, and the bishops of Ratisbon who fought over the manorial rights within the city [8]. The reason for the conflict was Ratisbon's spatial position in the Middle Ages: It was the main residence of the Bavarian dukes and the largest economic metropolis in Southern Ger-

many due to the growing trade across the Danube and to Bohemia. Evidence of the past wealth is still visible today: in the Middle Ages, the Stone Bridge was the only fixed crossing of the Danube between Ulm and Vienna. Moreover, the cathedral still characterizes the cityscape (Figure 3) [8].

If the patricians had failed in 1245, the city would have remained in the possession of the Bavarian duchy. That scenario would have given the power struggle other determinants. Firstly, the Bavarian dukes would have had less reason to embroil 'their' capital in energy-sapping economic wars or to promote the cities surrounding Ratisbon as economic competitors, as they did with the *free and imperial city* [8]. Secondly, the city would not have suffered from the lack of supply over the small area of the city itself. Instead, it would have continued to benefit from connections to places in the north, where the towns of Amberg and Sulzbach-Rosenberg were considered the *Ruhr area of the Middle Ages* because of their ore mines and hammer mills located along the rivers [7]. Thirdly, as the Bavarian 'capital', Ratisbon would have had the slightest chance of being chosen as the seat for imperial congresses. As a *free and imperial city*, Ratisbon was officially under the direct rule of the emperor, a status which, along with its location at the Danube, was the main reason why the city got selected as the seat of the later *Perpetual Imperial Diet* [8].

The possible Alternative History scenarios of Ratisbon's local history can show the interconnections and mutual determinants that combine it with the historical background of Bavaria and Germany. Further research needs to focus on two points to develop an adequate Alternative History landscape of 1245: Researchers need to understand better the power struggle by viewing the different ruling rights of the various groups within the city. Furthermore, researchers need to analyse the development of the various residences promoted by the Bavarian dukes after the loss of

Ratisbon to accurately assess Ratisbon's historical development as the 'capital' of the Bavarian duchy.

4.2 Alternative History and Upper Palatinate II: rediscovering 'lost' parts of local history

The second case study regards how Alternative History can make it possible to rediscover 'lost' parts of the local history. The summary of the main vectors for the discussion is displayed in Table 2.

The geographical location of the Upper Palatinate shows that its history has intertwined with the present Czech Republic. In contrast, the historical memory of most people in the Upper Palatinate has forgotten that this intertwining was much closer in history than the stable border would suggest [1]. In 1373, Emperor Charles IV (1316-1378) exchanged most of his territory *New Bohemia* for the dominion of the Electorate Brandenburg. Since 1353, he had gradually ac-

quired these areas of present western and northern Upper Palatinate [1].

To illustrate that this is a largely forgotten but important part of the local history, the question would be: **What if the plans for *New Bohemia* had been pursued?**

This assumption is appropriate for three reasons. This area represented a strategically important land corridor connecting the Kingdom of Bohemia with the centres of the Holy Roman Empire, like the city of Nuremberg [13]. Also, Charles IV made decisions indicating the goal of tying this region to the Crown of Bohemia, namely he governed it from a permanent residence in Sulzbach-Rosenberg, granted privileges to the territories, and expanded the trade routes. As Figure 4 illustrates in red, in the 2nd half of the 14th century, a relatively limited territory between Bohemia and Nuremberg was the concentration of a relatively high number of Emperor Charles IV's bases.

Table 2. Case Study for Alternative History and the rediscover 'lost' parts of local history.

Date	Historical event	Historical divergence	Alternative outcome	Historical outcome	Regained data/ awareness	Further aspects of an Alternative History landscape
1373	Emperor Charles IV exchanged most of his territory <i>New Bohemia</i> for rule in the Electorate Brandenburg.	What if the plans for <i>New Bohemia</i> had been pursued?	The region is developing similarly to the neighbouring <i>Egerland</i> .	The Kingdom of Bohemia is pushed out of the region of the Upper Palatinate, the border between the two regions remains stable until today.	The scenario can rediscover 'lost' parts of the history between the two regions.	Analysis of the regional powers in the Upper Palatinate of the 14 th century. Comparison of the development with other areas under the rule of the Bohemian Kingdom.

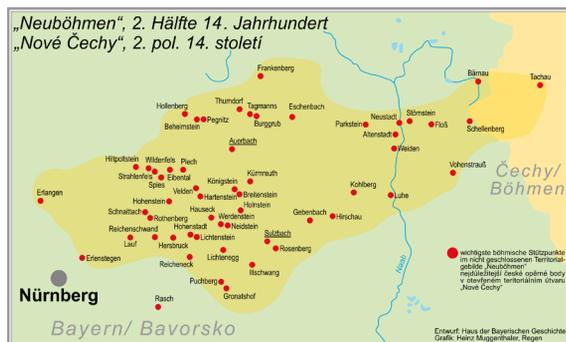


Figure 4: Concentration of Emperor Charles IV's bases in the 2nd half of the 14th century between Bohemia and Nuremberg. Source: Heinz Muggenthaler with material of the House of Bavarian History under <https://www.hdbg.eu/karten/karten/detail/id/142>.

And the retention of a small territory in the west of the Upper Palatinate in the context of the exchange with the Electorate Brandenburg around Berlin, whose princes were also electors of the emperor, showed that *New Bohemia* continued to be a strategic option [1]. If he had continued these plans, a development such as the *Egerland* seems to be realistic. The region around the present Czech city of *Cheb* (Eger in the German language) had been colonized in the early Middle Ages by a dominion that included large parts of the Upper Palatinate. It developed into a strategically important area under the rule of the Hohenstaufen, an imperial house of the 12th and 13th centuries [14]. After the fall of this dynasty in 1250, the Bohemian kings aimed to include this region in their domain. When they achieved this goal in 1322, the area was not fully integrated into Bohemia. In fact, the German-speaking *Egerland* retained an independent position over the centuries, whereby its independence was increasingly dissolved. It was only in 1782 that its ecclesiastical belonging to the bishopric of Ratisbon has abandoned [14]. In contrast to the *Egerland*, the plans for *New Bohemia* failed and the Bohemian kings were not holding a position that allowed a resumption, because

the remaining territory and the strategic option of a subsequent territorial expansion were lost in conflicts under the successor of Charles IV. The border between former *New Bohemia* and *Egerland* remain stable for centuries [1].

Alternative History can rediscover that *New Bohemia* was not just a minor, forgotten episode in local history, but had a major strategic determinant in the 14th century. It is a significant chapter in the historical development of the present Upper Palatinate and the Czech Republic. To clarify this Alternative History landscape, a more detailed analysis of the various regional powers in the 14th century Upper Palatinate is necessary to trace how the individual territories of *New Bohemia* were acquired and lost again. Only a comparison with other territories under the rule of the Bohemian kingdom can give insights into the mechanisms by which these territories were integrated into his reign.

4.3 Alternative History and Upper Palatinate III: improving understanding of past decisions

The third case study regards how Alternative History can make it possible to improve understanding of past decisions. The rationale for the discussion of this perspective is displayed in Table 3.

Alternative history can bring clarity to decisions at the local micro level that are incomprehensible to the people of the respective present. One case study is the controversial development of the ‘car-friendly old town’ in Ratisbon until the end of these plans in 1978 [8, 14]. The old town had survived the Second World War without appreciable damage. At the time, it was considered an eyesore and was in urgent need of renovation since many dilapidated flats lacked basic sanitary infrastructure [8]. Therefore, after the Second World War, various urban planners recommended the demo-

Table 3. Case Study for Alternative History and the improvement in the understanding of past decisions.

Date	Historical event	Historical divergence	Alternative outcome	Historical outcome	Regained data/ awareness	Further aspects of an Alternative History landscape
1978	The city of Ratisbon stops the plans for its ‘car-friendly old town’.	What if the city had executed the plans after 1978?	The old town of Ratisbon loses its medieval character completely.	The old town develops itself from an eyesore to a touristic hotspot and an expensive centre for gastronomy and entertainment.	The scenario can improve understanding of this past decision.	Analysis of cities of the same size, which had implemented ‘car-friendly concepts’ and their following city development.

lition of old buildings to make room for increasing traffic and new residential buildings with basic sanitation standards to become a ‘car-friendly old town’. As a result, the focus of urban redevelopment was an advanced road network with many parking spaces to make the old town quickly accessible with the aim to maintain the city as a shopping and administrative centre [15].

The question **What if the city had executed the plans after 1978?** is appropriate because the city administration had concrete plans for these changes: in addition to an inner and outer ring of streets, they envisaged a north-south and east-west axis for the present World Heritage Site with a four- to six-lane motorway bridge through the old town. In anticipation of the planning, demolition work was already underway in the old town [15]. Against this paradigm, the short-term outcome of the Alternative History becomes clear. The road traffic plan is largely implemented, as aforementioned. The old town loses its medieval character to a greater or lesser extent, but also receives the modern infrastructure of the 1970s much faster. The long-term results are more un-

clear because the determinants in the old town influence the entire social and economic development of the city and vice versa [16]. So, it is clear: Ratisbon would not become a World Heritage Site as a nearly preserved medieval ensemble, which makes this district a touristic hotspot and one of the premium places to live in Ratisbon today. In contrast to this scenario, historical developments in the 1970s favoured a realignment [16]. The city received more funding for the renovation of listed buildings, and persistent resistance of various citizens’ initiatives led many Ratisbon residents to rethink the relevance and perception of the historic old town. This development led to a mitigation of the street traffic plan in 1974. In 1978, the municipal government stopped the demolition and new construction. Today as a World Heritage Site, the redeveloped Old Town is no longer a shopping and administrative but a gastronomy and entertainment centre with high prices and rents [16].

This Alternative History scenario improves the transparency of the past decisions of the ‘car-friendly old town’. It also shows that a different

kind of development of the old town would have serious disadvantages for the city’s development, especially for the economic and social development. By concretizing an alternative historical landscape of a ‘car-friendly Ratisbon’, further research must analyse the situation in cities that were the same size as Ratisbon in the 1970s and elaborated on the corresponding traffic plans afterward. With this data, the possible economic and social development results for the entire city will be better described.

4.4 Alternative History and Upper Palatinate IV: clarifying the present and the future

The final case study regards how Alternative History can clarify possibilities for the present and future. The main points for the analysis of the case study are displayed in Table 4.

It became clear that Alternative History can make decisions of the past transparent, what happens to the present, and its possibilities for the future. A case study is the founding of today’s East

Bavarian Technical University of Applied Sciences Amberg-Weiden, i.e., Ostbayerische Technische Hochschule Amberg-Weiden (OTH Amberg-Weiden) in 1991 [7]. Before decision-making, the location of an university of applied sciences in the structurally weak peripheral region of the Upper Palatinate was controversial. This fact gets highlighted by numerous anecdotes and legends in local history, which made the evaluation more difficult [17]. It was undisputed that the two cities of Amberg and Weiden had initially applied individually. Afterward, the political discussion was dominated by several options. The degree of reality is assessed differently, like the role of a faked heart attack of a Bavarian minister for the approval of Weiden for a university location [17].

In this context, it is necessary to reflect on the question: **What would have happened if the OTH Amberg-Weiden had not been founded or had been founded differently?**

It is appropriate because various options were discussed, like in the media the political threat of

Table 4. Case Study for Alternative History and the clarifying of possibilities for the present and future.

Date	Historical event	Historical divergence	Alternative outcome	Historical outcome	Regained data/ awareness	Further aspects of an Alternative History landscape
1991	The Bavarian government determined the compromise that Amberg and Weiden get one university of applied sciences.	What if none or only one of the cities would have gotten the university of applied sciences?	The economic power of the district concentrates even more in Ratisbon or only one town prospers because of the unleashing of potentials through the university.	Both cities gain advantages from the university projects and students, but both locations remain comparatively small university regions.	The different possible outcomes of the decision can clarify the possibilities of politics for the present and the future.	Analysing of other foundations of universities of applied sciences in the rural areas of Bavaria and their influence in the development of the different regions.

not building another university in the region due to the rivalry between the two cities and instead of continuing to expand the university of applied sciences in Ratisbon [17]. An Alternative History scenario depends on the possible decision: no university of applied sciences for Amberg and Weiden or only one university of applied sciences for one city. An analysis of the second scenario leads to the example of Ratisbon. In 1962, the Bavarian Parliament had decided to establish the University of Ratisbon to promote *the reserves of talent* in Eastern Bavaria [18]. And the concentrated impulses from research and teaching had a lasting contribution to the settlement of many companies and laid the foundation for Ratisbon's current metropolitan status [18]. A similar development in the smaller cities on a smaller scale would also have been possible for Amberg or Weiden. After the debates in *real* history, the Bavarian state government determined the compromise of a dual location so that both the central and northern Upper Palatinate benefited from the university's structural impulses [15]. In 2021, the East Bavarian Technical University of Applied Sciences Amberg-Weiden had 3,596 students, 93 professors, and 408 employees who interact with the regional economy in 58 research projects. These impulses are spread over two locations and a large region [19].

Based on the decisions for the university locations in the Upper Palatinate, Alternative History can explore different scenarios of distribution or even a non-inclusion of the OTH Amberg-Weiden and illustrate which possibilities the current policy has for the regional structures of the future. By building up a corresponding and detailed Alternative History landscape, research should analyse the foundations of other universities of applied sciences in the rural regions of Bavaria. Good comparability offers other foundations in the 1990s with similar initial conditions (Degendorf, Hof, and Aschaffenburg) or university

foundations that have been active in their region for much longer (Coburg, Kempten) [20].

5. Conclusion and future perspectives

The previous case studies show that Alternative History offers new research options for historians and opens new potential for communicating local history to interested lay persons. **What if Ratisbon had not been granted imperial freedom in 1245?** proves how closely the history of Ratisbon is intertwined with Bavarian and German historical backgrounds in the Middle Ages. **What if the plans of New Bohemia had been pursued?** illustrates the significance at the time of an episode of local history that had been forgotten outside the region because it was relatively brief. **What if the car-friendly old town in Ratisbon had not ended in 1978?** makes the political decisions of the time understandable and comprehensible to people of the present day. **What if the OTH Amberg-Weiden had not been founded or differently founded?** illustrates what possibilities structural policy decisions of the present have for the future.

The perspectives of such a local Alternative History are the research focus of the *Ankerpunkte Blog*. For the future, it intends using the case studies to design plausible Alternative History landscapes that have a higher degree of factual determinacy and require further and more detailed analyses of local historical developments and determinants.

6. Round Table Insight

The presentations in Round Table 3³ of the conference *WhatIf'21*, where this work was presented, showed many overlaps in the objectives for Alternative History in local history, despite the different topics and research fields. Rui

Macário showed the lay audience is reached more easily with ‘what if questions’ using the example of a museum. The questions and answers provide revealing insights for the museum visitors and increase the identification of the population with their respective local structures. Cynthia Montaudon-Tomas used Alternative Histories scenarios as a standard tool in economic analyses to illustrate new possibilities and previously unknown potentials in business and political decisions. With this, she shows an actual connection to the fourth perspective of this article (Alternative History can clarify possibilities for the present and future).

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