

Job Announcement

Young, modern, and research-oriented... the University of Potsdam has firmly established itself within the scientific landscape since its founding in 1991. Nationally and internationally renowned scientists teach and perform research here at Brandenburg's largest university. The University of Potsdam is successful in acquiring third-party funds, delivers outstanding performance in technology and knowledge transfer, and has a very service-oriented administration. With about 21,000 students studying at three campuses – Am Neuen Palais, Griebnitzsee and Golm – the University of Potsdam is a prominent economic factor and engine of development for the region. The University of Potsdam has a total of over 3,000 faculty and staff members and is located in one of Germany's most scenic areas.

The **Research Training Group *minor cosmopolitanisms* (Graduiertenkolleg GRK 2130)**, funded by the **German Research Foundation (DFG)** and conducted jointly by **Universität Potsdam, Freie Universität Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin**, announces 12 Positions

Academic Staff Member (PhD Researchers) Requisition No.: 309/2022

The positions are available from 1st October, 2022. The salary is determined by the collective bargaining agreement for public employees in Germany (TV-L 13). The positions are for 26 hours per week (65% of a full-time contract). These are temporary positions limited to a term of three years in accordance with Section 2 subsection 1 of the Fixed-Term Employment Contracts in Science and Research Act (WissZeitVG).

The Research Training Group (RTG) *minor cosmopolitanisms* establishes new ways of studying and understanding the cosmopolitan project against and beyond its Eurocentric legacies. The minor denotes a perspective crucially informed by post- and decolonial thought and builds on interpretations of cosmopolitan practice which have been variably qualified as “agonistic,” “black,” “creole,” “decolonial,” “discrepant,” “indigenous,” “rooted,” “subaltern” or “vernacular.” They bring into being cosmopolitanisms in a ‘minor’ mode unforeseen by dominant scripts and creating new subject positions within dominant discourses and geopolitics.

Specifically designed as a training programme for early career researchers, the RTG *minor cosmopolitanisms* offers an international framework connecting Berlin and Potsdam with partner universities in Australia, South Africa, India and the Americas to pursue PhD and postdoctoral projects in a diverse, decentral, collective and convivial environment. Projects within the RTG examine concrete critical, artistic as well as everyday practices which challenge the divide between cultural relativism and humanist universalism haunting the humanities and social sciences. They jointly strive to develop and promote an understanding of cosmopolitanism in the plural which combines visions of transcultural justice, peace and conviviality with an ethical commitment to difference and alterity.

Research projects will be clustered around five core thematic areas of training. These are: *Bodies, Ecologies, Inequalities, Indigeneity, and Alternative Genealogies*. Within these fields, projects should deal with (current and/or historical) theoretical approaches, literature and other media of artistic production, and/or everyday social and political practices in which minor cosmopolitanisms are acted out.

The RTG locates Potsdam and Berlin at the crossroads of eight partner institutions on four different continents (University of Melbourne, Macquarie University Sydney, Delhi University, EFLU Hyderabad, University of Pretoria, University of Cape Town, York University Toronto and Duke University, Durham). Successful applicants will receive an employment contract for the period of three years with one of the participating universities in the Potsdam/Berlin area. They are encouraged to spend one or two semesters at one of the partner institutions during the second year of their contract, but personal circumstances such as family commitments will be taken into account.

Three of the 12 positions are advertised in conjunction with the University of Melbourne. Successful candidates will pursue a Joint Degree which involves a mandatory 12 month-stay in Melbourne. For this track, applications are invited which pursue projects that fit into the thematic research areas *Indigeneity*, *Bodies*, or *Ecologies*, and are related to one or more of five key themes of concern to the Cultural Studies Program at the University of Melbourne: multiculturalism, cultural complexity, and superdiversity; transforming identities (gendered, sexual, ethnic and others); cultural and environmental sustainability; colonialism and culture; new cultural flows in the Asia-Pacific region, and Australia's relationships within these flows. Candidates should signal interest in the Melbourne option in their application documents. More information on the Cultural Studies programme at the University of Melbourne and the Joint Degree scheme can be found on the website www.uni-potsdam.de/minorcosmopolitanisms.

Candidates are invited to apply by proposing their own dissertation project within the thematic scope of minor cosmopolitanisms and within the fields represented in the RTG (Anglophone Literary Studies, Postcolonial Studies, American Studies, Cultural Studies, Gender and Queer Studies, Cultural Anthropology, History, Jewish Studies, Religious Studies, Political Theory, Sociology, German Literary Studies). For a detailed description of the thematic scope of the Research Training Group and a list of the formal disciplines in which applicants will be enrolled please consult the website (www.uni-potsdam.de/minorcosmopolitanisms).

Applicants must have completed an M.A. degree or equivalent in one of the disciplines represented in the RTG or in a related academic field. A high level of proficiency in English is required. The project's working language is English. Knowledge of German is not necessary, but successful applicants will have the opportunity to attend German language courses, should they wish to. Candidates are expected to take up residence in the Potsdam/Berlin area and to take an active part in the activities of the Research Training Group.

The majority of working hours will be reserved for the successful completion of a PhD within a period of three years. The RTG strives for a balanced gender ratio in all occupational groups; therefore women are strongly encouraged to apply. Applicants with disabilities will be given preference in case of equal qualification. The RTG specifically encourages applications by international candidates, especially from the global South. The University of Potsdam offers a variety of services for parents, and the University's Welcome Center provides a variety of services for international candidates, including visa issues.

Applications must be submitted by 1st March, 2022. Submission via the online application tool provided on the website www.uni-potsdam.de/minorcosmopolitanisms is highly recommended. Please consult the website for information on the RTG, details of the application process, and information on possible supervisors. For further inquiries contact the RTG's coordination office (minor-cosmopolitanisms@uni-potsdam.de). In the case of submission by post, applicants are required to include a self-addressed stamped envelope to facilitate the return of their documents.

Potsdam, 11.01.2022