

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Two Fully-Funded PhD Positions in Global History

Freie Universität Berlin, Center for Global History

Application Deadline: 23 April 2018

The Emmy Noether Research Group *Reaching the People: Communication and Global Orders in the Twentieth Century* invites applications for two fully-funded PhD positions (salary group TV-L 13, 65 %, 3 years, additional funds for research and archival trips available). Successful candidates will be part of the Center for Global History at Freie Universität Berlin. PhD proposals should connect to one of the three pillars of the research agenda, as outlined below.

Research Agenda

The Emmy Noether Research Group *Reaching the People* seeks to investigate the role of mass communication in twentieth-century conceptions of global order. The research group follows a broad definition of communication, including the study of language, of media and media technologies, and of the origins of communication studies as a scientific discipline.

The work of the research group is based on three main pillars of research:

- **Reaching the People:** The group will analyse the means by which different regimes experimented with large-scale communication with their populations. Such experiments could range from means of mass communication such as radio and film to literacy campaigns and the circulation of books and pamphlets.
- **Accessing the Global Public:** Beyond a top down approach, the group is also interested in finding out who attempted to reach the global public from the bottom up. In the twentieth century, grassroots movements all over the world endeavoured to make themselves heard, using new means of communication and finding global audiences beyond their communities and nations.
- **Channelling Information Flows:** Against a vision of a world of open communications, and in line with current debates on free, censored, and intercepted flows of information in many parts of the world, the research group will posit the study of controls, stoppages and diversions of communication, for instance in cases of humanitarian catastrophe or environmental disaster.

The research group is funded by the German Research Council (DFG). It offers a stimulating research environment at the Center for Global History at Freie Universität as well as substantial financial support for archival stays. PhD students will be fully integrated into a strong network of international scholars in area studies and global history both at the university itself and in Berlin more broadly.

Job Description

Successful candidates will develop a PhD dissertation in the field of global communication history in the twentieth century as well as contribute to the activities of the research group more generally. Dissertation projects will connect with one of the three pillars outlined above. They should focus on a specific area outside of Europe during the period of decolonization. Possible themes include, but are by no means limited to, the role of women in decolonization movements and their connection with global public spheres or the role of rural populations and their access to news and information.

Terms of Employment

Fellowships are offered as research positions on a fixed-term basis, starting on 1 October 2018 (salary group TV-L 13, 65%, 3 years, with additional funds for research and archival trips available).

Requirements

- MA degree either in History with a significant focus in non-European/global/world history or in an Area Studies discipline with a significant historical focus
- Very good knowledge of English and the languages relevant to the research proposal
- Familiarity with relevant scholarly debates and approaches in global history

How to Apply

Interested candidates are asked to apply by submitting the following documents as one PDF file to the address reaching-the-people@geschkult.fu-berlin.de no later than **23 April 2018**.

- Cover letter
- Curriculum vitae
- Abstract of MA thesis (one page)
- Research proposal (five pages) including a brief explanation how your project fits into the framework of the research group
- Letter of recommendation by MA supervisor (with the option to name one additional reference). Please ask your supervisor to email their letter directly to the above address with a subject line that reads "Letter of Recommendation" and your full name

More Information

For a detailed description of the research programme, please visit <http://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/reaching-the-people>.

For all further queries, please contact the head of the research group, Dr. Valeska Huber (valeska.huber@fu-berlin.de).