



LICHTENBERG-KOLLEG

THE GÖTTINGEN INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
IN THE HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Lichtenberg-Kolleg, the Göttingen Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences, invites applications for

Early Career Fellowships

Opening its doors in 1737 Göttingen quickly established itself as one of Europe's leading Enlightenment universities. Named after one of the most important and versatile representatives of the Göttingen Enlightenment, the Lichtenberg-Kolleg is an interdisciplinary research institute with a strong focus not only on religion in the modern world, the Enlightenment(s) as well as the history of political thought/intellectual history but also on "bridges" between the human and natural sciences.

For the period **October 2019 – July 2021** we are inviting early career scholars to join one of the following research groups:

- **Globalising the Enlightenment: Knowledge, Culture, Travel, Exchange and Collections,**
- **Human Rights, Constitutional Politics, and Religious Diversity,**
- **European Intellectual History / History of Political Thought,**
- **Moritz Stern Fellowships in Modern Jewish Studies: Cultural, Intellectual and Literary History** (in cooperation with the Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities)

The University of Göttingen is an equal opportunities employer and places particular emphasis on fostering career opportunities for women. Qualified women are therefore strongly encouraged to apply as they are underrepresented in this field. Disabled persons with equivalent aptitude will be favoured.

Fellowships are open to candidates who have obtained a doctorate within the last 6 years.

Information for Lichtenberg-Kolleg Early Career Fellowship applicants

This file is designed to provide you with important information on the application procedure. It represents the information on Early Career Fellowships (ECF) and research themes.

We would request you to take note of it before submitting your application.

Introduction

For Early Career Fellows, we provide the opportunity to bring their research to a more advanced level after their doctorate and to prepare themselves for their professional future as academic teachers, researchers and administrators. Hence the Early Career Fellowship (ECF) programme will combine research and professional training, i.e. assist Fellows in turning their thesis into a monograph, in learning about publishers and publishing, in starting up a new research project, in learning about funding opportunities (and about how to apply) and in developing those skills that are needed in the life of academic teaching and administration. Early Career Fellows will also have the opportunity to teach at undergraduate level. These teaching opportunities are to be developed in close cooperation with the Göttingen associate members of each research group who will act as mentors.

In close cooperation with Göttingen colleagues a specific research team will be set up for each theme. The composition of each research group will be a mixture of Senior Fellows, Mid-Career Fellows and Early Career Fellows. In principal, each research group will consist of three or four Early Career Fellows, two Mid-Career/Senior Research Fellows, four or five Göttingen associates and up to three affiliated Göttingen PhD students. Fellowships in the following Research Groups are currently available (further information below):

- Globalising the Enlightenment: Knowledge, Culture, Travel, Exchange and Collections
- Human Rights, Constitutional Politics, and Religious Diversity
- European Intellectual History / History of Political Thought
- Moritz Stern Fellowships in Modern Jewish Studies: Cultural, Intellectual and Literary History (in cooperation with the Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities)

Eligibility

Candidates are eligible during the six-year period following the successful completion of their Ph.D. The Ph.D. thesis will have to be handed in before application and the Ph.D. defence should take place no later than 31 May 2019. In exceptional cases we will consider applications from candidates who will hand in their thesis after the application deadline. In this case we need your supervisors to confirm that your PhD thesis will be handed in before the prospective beginning of the Fellowship in October 2019. Extensions to the six-year rule are allowed for applicants whose academic career has been interrupted for maternity leave or illness. Please provide information on circumstances in the application. Successful candidates will be asked to provide supporting documents. Göttingen graduates are encouraged to apply although candidates from outside Göttingen with equivalent qualifications will be favoured. Candidates of all nationalities are eligible for the ECF.

Duration

The Fellowships are awarded for 22 months beginning in October 2019 and ending in July 2021.

Residence

Fellows are required to live in Göttingen for the duration of their Fellowship in order that they may take an active part in the programme and in the academic activities in Göttingen.

Grant

The tax-free scholarship consists of:

- a basic grant of between 1.365,- and 1.518,- Euro per month (according to the University of Göttingen Guidelines for Research Fellowships)
- 203 Euro as a research and publication allowance per month
- 600 Euro per month as allowance for accommodation

Where applicable, family allowances will be added to the basic grant (see below).

Family Allowance

There is a dependents allowance of 400 Euro per month for the first dependent child living with the Fellow in Göttingen. For every additional child the allowance is 100 Euro per month.

Fellows are entitled to these allowances if they are not receiving any similar allowance from another source, and on presentation of birth certificates.

A school or university certificate is required for dependent children in full-time education and over the age of 18.

Taxation

The Fellowship is not taxed by the Lichtenberg-Kolleg. Fellows are, however, required to comply with any other tax provisions which may be applicable to them.

Medical Insurance

Fellows should have adequate medical insurance cover during their stay at the Lichtenberg-Kolleg.

Removal/Installation Expenses

There is no provision for removal or installation expenses.

Selection Criteria and Procedure

Fellows are selected on the basis of their research excellence and potential, their academic career interests, and the availability of Göttingen faculty to provide mentorship. Research excellence is assessed on the basis of the candidate's contributions (publications, PhD thesis, etc.) and other supporting evidence (i.e. letters of reference and research plan). Academic career interests are assessed on the basis of the CV and other supporting evidence (i.e. letters of reference). ECF will be assigned to those candidates, satisfying the research excellence criteria and who will benefit most from the ECF Programme, which is oriented towards the early stages of the post-doc academic career. The capacity and availability of University of Göttingen faculty to provide mentorship is taken into account; however, while having common research interests may be helpful, it is not a necessity for mentorship.

Selection committee

Fellows are selected by the ECF Programme selection committee:

- Lichtenberg-Kolleg director and research theme coordinators
- associated Göttingen Faculty
- Academic Advisory Board of the Lichtenberg-Kolleg

We aim to inform applicants of the decision of the committee by April 2019. You will receive a positive or negative response or a communication informing you of your position on the waiting list.

How to apply

- 1) Prepare your CV with a list of publications.
- 2) Prepare a "Research and academic career statement" briefly explaining your career ambitions and research plans (up to 3000 words). The statement should include a summary of research contributions and interests, academic career plans, fields of specialization, and teaching experience. A detailed research and academic plan is not required but, if possible, a reference should be made to how a Lichtenberg-Kolleg ECF can contribute to achieve your career goals.
- 3) Provide a copy of your Ph.D. degree certificate or statement that Ph.D. has been handed in or will be handed in before October 2019.
- 4) Prepare a single pdf file including documents 1 to 3.
- 5) Use the application portal which will be online after 10th December 2018 on our website.
- 6) Two confidential letters of reference (also in pdf format) need to be uploaded directly by the referees to the same application portal.
This can only be done after you have uploaded your application as the referees will get an automated email with a registration code asking them to upload the letters for your application. Please make sure that your referees have ample time to upload the material before the application deadline.
- 7) All application material has to be in English. Please provide translations of certificates if necessary. Please use standard international fonts and avoid macros, special characters and password-protected attachments.

Guidelines

The guidelines "[Richtlinie zur Vergabe von Stipendien an der Universität Göttingen \(ohne Universitätsmedizin\)](#)" (Scholarship regulation University of Göttingen) provide general information on regulations for scholarships at the University of Göttingen.

Contact

If you have any questions about the ECF programme, please contact the coordinator of the research theme for which you apply (see below.)

Research Foci

Currently, the Lichtenberg-Kolleg concentrates on four research foci.

First, the interdisciplinary study of Enlightenment(s) within its wider Atlantic and Global Contexts has become a flagship of the Kolleg, named after one of the key figures of the Enlightenment, Georg Christoph Lichtenberg (1742-1799). Göttingen is not only associated with the Enlightenment's German manifestations, but also with the Enlightenment of other European and Atlantic regions and countries. The second research topic, namely the study of religious diversity will remain a strong research focus of the Kolleg as the study of religion is rich and widespread amongst the Göttingen research campus. Thirdly, the history of political thought, in the broadest historical sense, i.e. from the classics of antiquity to contemporary political theory. There is a preference for projects that want to open up comparative perspectives and study thinkers, topics and traditions within wider transnational vistas. Finally, the Lichtenberg-Kolleg fosters close connections to the Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities and has housed research on Modern Jewish Studies with the project: "The Diaries of Anne Frank. Research – Translations – Critical Edition."

1) Globalising the Enlightenment: Knowledge, Culture, Travel, Exchange and Collections

Since the establishment of the Lichtenberg-Kolleg, enlightenment studies have been one of its main foci. This is a reflection of the rich tradition of the University of Göttingen as well as of the large number of scholars at the Göttingen Campus currently working in the field of enlightenment studies. Additionally, the University and the Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities are hosting many research projects concerned with 18th century studies. The Lichtenberg-Kolleg supported these endeavours with a number of workshops and the set-up of a research group on *The Nature of Man in the European and Atlantic Enlightenment(s)* for the period of 2013-2015 and since 2015 with a research group named *Globalising the Enlightenment: Knowledge, Culture, Travel, Exchange and Collections*. We will continue this line of inquiry also in 2019-2021.

This research focus reflects the interest of Göttingen scholars in enlightenment studies as well as recent trends in interdisciplinary work on the 18th century. Questions of global entanglements, networks of exchange and trans-local mobility are currently one of the most debated and productive topics in enlightenment studies. At the same time studies from a variety of disciplines in the humanities focus especially on knowledge and its material manifestations as well as its production processes in a European and Global context.

Topics and research interests may include but are not restricted to:

- exchange and mobility of people, ideas, goods, species, objects
- university history and the making of the disciplines
- moral philosophy and natural law
- gender, race and diversity
- religion, reason and rationality
- natural history, medicine and university collections
- enlightenment literature and the arts
- global history of knowledge
- media, infrastructures and technology
- institutions and institutionalisation
- digital humanities and global enlightenment(s)

Participating scholars at the Göttingen Campus:

[Dr. Hans Erich Bödeker \(Göttingen\)](#)

[Prof. Dr. Ruth Florack \(Department of German Philology\)](#)

[Prof. Dr. Marian Füssel \(Department of Medieval and Modern History\)](#)

[Dr. Martin Gierl \(Faculty of Theology / Lichtenberg-Kolleg\)](#)

[Prof. Dr. Karin Hoff \(Department of Scandinavian Studies\)](#)

[Dr. Dominik Hünninger \(Lichtenberg-Kolleg\)](#)

[Prof. Dr. Bernd Ludwig \(Department of Philosophy\)](#)

[Prof. Dr. Barbara Schaff \(Department of English Philology\)](#)

[Prof. Dr. Michael Thimann \(Department of Art History and Art Collection\)](#)

[Prof. Dr. Andreas Waczkat \(Department of Musicology\)](#)

Collaborating initiatives on Göttingen Campus:

- [Göttingen Centre for Digital Humanities \(GCDH\)](#)
- [Zentrale Kustodie \(Centre for Collection Development\)](#)

Academy of Science and Humanities Projects:

- [Wissenschaftsgeschichte der Aufklärung](#)
- [Edition of the natural history works of Georg Christoph Lichtenberg](#)
- [Learned journals and newspapers as networks of knowledge in the age of the Enlightenment](#)
- [Johann Friedrich Blumenbach-online](#)

Contact: Dr. Dominik Hünninger

Phone: +49 (0)551 / 39-28263 Fax: +49 (0)551 / 39-1810626

E-Mail: dominik.huenniger@zvw.uni-goettingen.de

2) Human rights, constitutional politics, and religious diversity

This thematic research group at the Lichtenberg-Kolleg was established in 2015 to strengthen interdisciplinary cooperation on the role of human rights and modern constitutionalism for regulating religious diversity in contemporary societies. It brings together sociologists, political scientists, legal scholars and experts in modern Islam who are working on fundamental rights, their global diffusion and their complex relationship with religious traditions. The research theme, while responding to pressing political questions in many parts of the world, bears on foundational questions addressed by all participating disciplines and helps foster collaboration in the areas of socio-legal and religious studies on Göttingen Campus.

Göttingen based scholars cooperate with junior researchers and senior visiting fellows in the following three thematic areas. (a) Secularism and constitutional reforms.

Comparative research in this area focuses on explaining the politics of constitutional reform in selected European, Middle Eastern and South Asian states, focusing on secular-religious cleavages and status negotiations between religious majorities and minorities.

(b) Claiming religious rights in courts. Comparative research in this area focuses on core judicial institutions, notably international human rights courts and constitutional courts, and their emerging case-law responding to claims for recognizing individual and collective religious rights. (c) Transnational religious movements and legal

transformations. Research in this area scrutinizes historical and contemporary examples of transnational religious movements which mobilize to change both international and national legal regimes through political lobbying, constitutional agenda-setting or strategic litigation. Together, these three areas of research which all adopt a thoroughly transregional and transcultural perspective help understand how contemporary governance of religious diversity unfolds at the intersection of human rights, constitutional law and historically entrenched relations of state, nationhood and religion.

In the first period of this research group (2015-17), research compared legal pluralism in family law and religious freedom in Europe and in the MENA region. In the second period (2017-2019), research has deepened the geographical focus on the MENA region, while highlighting transregional dynamics of governing religious diversity. In the third period, applications are invited from scholars pursuing comparative work on imperial, colonial, and post-colonial settings of regulating religious diversity through law.

Participating scholars at the Göttingen Campus:

[Prof. Dr. Hans Michael Heinig \(Law, University of Göttingen\)](#)

[Prof. Dr. Ran Hirschl \(Sociology, University of Göttingen\)](#)

[Prof. Dr. Anja Jetschke \(Political Science, University of Göttingen\)](#)

[Prof. Dr. Matthias Koenig \(Sociology, University of Göttingen & MPI for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity\)](#)

[Dr. Julia Moses \(Sociology, University of Göttingen\)](#)

[Prof. Dr. Alexander-Kenneth Nagel \(Sociology, University of Göttingen\)](#)

[Prof. Dr. Christian Polke \(Theology, University of Göttingen\)](#)

[Prof. Dr. Srirupa Roy \(CEMIS, University of Göttingen\)](#)

[Prof. Dr. Irene Schneider \(Islamic Studies, University of Göttingen\)](#)

[Prof. Dr. Ayelet Shachar \(MPI for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity\)](#)

[Prof. Dr. Rupa Viswanath \(CEMIS; University of Göttingen\)](#)

Collaborating initiatives on Göttingen Campus:

- [Forum for Interdisciplinary Religious Studies](#)
- [Forum for Global and Transregional Studies](#)
- [Max Planck Fellow Group "Governance of Religious Diversity – Socio-Legal Dynamics"](#)

Contact: Dr. Kora Baumbach

Phone: +49 (0)551 / 39-10751 Fax: +49 (0)551 / 39-1810751

E-Mail: kora.baumbach@zvw.uni-goettingen.de

3) European Intellectual History / History of Political Thought

In recent decades Intellectual History has emerged as a field of enquiry that is of importance to a wide range of disciplines within the humanities and social sciences. Nowadays the field stands fairly freely at the crossroads of, for example, art and literature, history, law and politics, theology and philosophy. Where previously the "history of ideas" or, in Germany, *Geistesgeschichte* was pursued by those chiefly concerned with studying the "pre-history" of single disciplines, or with searching for the timeless wisdom of canonical texts and great thinkers, recent work in Intellectual History is done by scholars with a distinct historical interest in a particular historical period or place, thinker or topic. Nowadays intellectual historians not only study canonical texts but a wealth of sources - from pamphlet to print and painting.

At Göttingen and the Lichtenberg-Kolleg, named after one of the most versatile and funniest representatives of the Enlightenment in Europe, Intellectual History is eclectic and ecumenical in its agenda and tastes. It does not favour any specific theoretical or methodological approach, recognising that within Intellectual History a rich variety of alternative approaches are explored and debated with great Passion - varying from *Begriffsgeschichte* to the "Cambridge School", the Frankfurt School and Critical Theory up to a wide range of approaches inspired by recent French theorists, from Foucault to Derrida, from Balibar to Badiou.

In terms of subject matter the Göttingen focus is on the history of political thought, in the broadest historical sense, i.e. from the classics of antiquity to contemporary political theory - or as the phrase goes, "from Plato to Nato". Given the emphasis on "European" there is a preference for projects that want to open up comparative perspectives and study thinkers, topics and traditions within wider transnational, European or even global vistas. In terms of topics there is room for projects on, for example, freedom and religion, toleration and recognition, natural law and human rights, art and politics, republicanism, etc. Internationally there is, in institutional terms, cooperation with amongst others SCAS (the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study, Uppsala) and the "Centre for Comparative Studies of Toleration and Recognition" at the Ural Federal University (Ekaterinburg Russia).

4) Moritz Stern Fellowships in Modern Jewish Studies: Cultural, Intellectual and Literary History (in cooperation with the Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities)

In the past couple of years the Lichtenberg-Kolleg has been actively and deeply involved in the research project, *The Diaries of Anne-Frank: Research, Translations and Editions*. As directors of the project Raphael Gross, director of the Deutsches Historisches Museum in Berlin, and Martin van Gelderen have set up an international and interdisciplinary research team to prepare new critical and historical editions of the diaries of Anne Frank (so far in Dutch, English, German and Italian) and a joint research monograph that puts the diaries in a variety of comparative, literary and historical perspectives and explore readings and receptions. In 2019, the project will come to a close — the English-language edition and the research monograph will be submitted to Cambridge University Press for review and publication.

For the Lichtenberg-Kolleg the Anne Frank project has marked the start of the development of a strong research focus on Modern Jewish Studies. In cooperation with the *Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities* we are now setting up the research group **Modern Jewish Studies: Cultural, Intellectual and Literary History**. The group will bring together up to four Early Career and one or two Senior Research Fellows. At the Kolleg, named after one of the most versatile and funniest representatives of the Enlightenment in Europe, Modern Jewish Studies will be fairly eclectic and ecumenical in its agenda and tastes. It does not favour any specific theoretical or methodological approach, recognising that within the field a rich variety of alternative approaches are explored and debated with great passion. In terms of subject matter our focus is on the **cultural, intellectual and literary history of the early modern and modern period, i.e. from 1500 until the present**. There is a preference for projects that want to open up comparative perspectives and study authors and thinkers, topics and traditions within wider transnational, European or even global vistas.

The Early Career Fellowships are named after **Moritz Stern (1807-1894)** who from his birthplace Frankfurt am Main moved to Göttingen in the spring of 1827 to study with one of Europe's finest mathematicians and astronomers, Carl Friedrich Gauss. Moritz became the first doctoral student of Gauss and defended his doctoral thesis successfully in 1829. It was the start of a remarkable career, closely connected with Gauss and hence with the home of the Lichtenberg-Kolleg, the historische Sternwarte/Historical

Astronomic Observatory, for so many years the house of Gauss and his family. Stern was a prolific mathematician and writer. In 1877 he published a brief celebration of Gauss, who had died here in the Sternwarte in 1855. The main reason for Stern's fame was his appointment in 1859 as *Ordinarius*, as regular Professor of the University of Göttingen. Stern was the first non-baptised Jew to obtain such a position and many saw his appointment as a clear sign of the progress of Jewish emancipation in Germany. Eight decades later, in the early 1930s, many descendants of the Stern family left Frankfurt and Germany, literally running for life. Amongst these refugees were Otto Frank and his family, including his daughter Anne, who fled and moved from Frankfurt to Amsterdam. The research Modern Jewish Studies strongly benefits from the financial support of the Anne Frank Fonds, Basel.

Participating scholars at the Göttingen Campus:

[Prof. Dr. Andreas Gardt \(Academy of Science and Humanities Göttingen\)](#)

[Prof. Dr. Thomas Kaufmann \(Faculty of Theology\)](#)

[Prof. Dr. Gerhard Lauer \(Academy of Science and Humanities Göttingen\)](#)

[Prof. Dr. Martin van Gelderen \(Lichtenberg-Kolleg\)](#)

Contact: Dr. Kora Baumbach

Phone: +49 (0)551 / 39-10751 Fax: +49 (0)551 / 39-1810751

E-Mail: kora.baumbach@zvw.uni-goettingen.de