

Job advertisement: PHD position with practical orientation

- **1 research associate position (postdoc, TV-L E13, 100%, limited to four years)**
- **7 research associate positions (TV-L E13, 65%, limited to four years)**

In the post graduate programme "Exhibiting Knowledge. A history of knowledge of exhibitions in the 2nd half of the 20th century" at the University of Göttingen

Within the framework of the post graduate programme „Wissen Ausstellen“ („Exhibiting Knowledge“), sponsored by the Volkswagen Foundation, the University of Göttingen offers seven doctoral positions and one post-doctoral position in the subjects History, Cultural Anthropology/European Ethnology, Eastern European History, Ethnology, Scandinavian Studies, Art History and Medical Ethics/History of Medicine or similar cultural- or social-scientific subjects, starting from **5 October 2018**. What makes this programme special is the connection of theory and practice, which helps the humanities in developing into a new, more applied direction. For this purpose, the **four-year promotion** includes **cooperating with seven selected museums** in addition to the historical research.

The programme mainly focusses on exhibitions being locations in which socially available knowledge is acquired, changed and mediated. Exhibitions are interpreted as serving the purpose of cultural and social self-assurance and creating new connotations. Because of this, they play an important role in generating and trading knowledge in knowledge-based societies. The programme aims at examining the deep connection between knowledge and exhibiting through seven different main topics, and at analysing their correlation with historical and cultural scientific methods. The main questions are: What kind of knowledge is generated in and through exhibitions? How do exhibition organisers react to ground-breaking discoveries in their fields? And vice versa: To what extend is the knowledge from exhibitions incorporated back into academic or social discourse?

In order to cope with the complexity of this topic on the one hand and the effect exhibitions as places of knowledge have on the other, the PHD students will work in one of the cooperating museums for a year. The museums will also be closely connected to the dissertation topics. Exhibitions analysed in the dissertations could have taken place in either one of these museums, or in other museums and places of exhibition. The most important thing, however, is that the PHD-project can be categorised into one of the following main topics:

Main Topics:

1. Exhibiting colonial knowledge: Museums of European colonial powers since the 1960s.

Application portal: https://lotus2.gwdg.de/uni/uzdv/perso/knr_100320.nsf

2. Exhibiting migration? A history of knowledge of a thematic constriction.

Application portal: https://lotus2.gwdg.de/uni/uzdv/perso/knr_100321.nsf

3. War – Remembering, Experiencing, Weeping. About knowledge production in WW2 exhibitions at the crime scenes.

Application portal: https://lotus2.gwdg.de/uni/uzdv/perso/knr_100322.nsf

4. Researching and exhibiting Ethnology.

Application portal: https://lotus2.gwdg.de/uni/uzdv/perso/knr_100323.nsf

5. The Viking – A myth. Design and backlash on museum communication.

Application portal: https://lotus2.gwdg.de/uni/uzdv/perso/knr_100324.nsf

6. Knowledge of pictures: Visual argumentation in exhibitions.

Application portal: https://lotus2.gwdg.de/uni/uzdv/perso/knr_100325.nsf

7. The ‚show value‘ of human remains. Exhibitions as actors in the medical-ethical discourse.

Application portal: https://lotus2.gwdg.de/uni/uzdv/perso/knr_100326.nsf

For more information about the programme, the main topics, and the museums, please visit:

<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/forschungskolleg+wissen+ausstellen/581589.html>

The post-doctoral position's responsibilities include, in equal parts, the work on an own research project and participating in the programme's organisation. The research project should contribute to the history of exhibiting and is supposed to serve as a base for a monograph. The organisational tasks include the content-related and methodical support of the doctoral students, as well as the participation in regular colloquia and workshops. Through the post-doctorate's comprehensive perspective, the history of exhibiting throughout the second half of the 20th century should be examined. To ensure this, the post-doctorate conceptualises a conference with the postgraduates and publishes the output in a conference transcript. In the first year, the work place will be at the University of Göttingen, whereas in the second year workshops will take place at the respective museums. The post-doctorate position requires a PhD in one of the subjects and experience in the fields of teaching and curating. Please find further requirements on the topics' websites.

Application portal Postdoc: https://lotus2.gwdg.de/uni/uzdv/perso/knr_100327.nsf

The postgraduates are required to have an excellent scientific degree in one of the mentioned or similar subjects. A strong interest in practical work at museums, researching the history of knowledge and exhibitions, and theoretical discourses should be a given. The work place will be the University of Göttingen. For the PHD students the second year of the promotion will consist of practical work at the location of the chosen museums. The projects will not only be supervised by the University, but also by the museums.

We offer an intensive mentoring of all postgraduates in an individually-tailored scientific programme and a performance enhancing work atmosphere. The University of Göttingen has dedicated itself to the research of its own collections and exhibitions, it supports great initiatives in these fields, and therefore offers an inspiring scientific environment for your work.

The University of Göttingen aims at increasing the women's quota in areas where women are underrepresented and therefore encourages qualified women to apply. It sees itself as a family-friendly University and promotes the compatibility of science, work and family. Additionally, the University aims at employing more

significantly disabled people, therefore these applications will be favoured in case of even qualifications.

Applications for the doctoral positions should include an exposé on the research plans (max 750 words), **applications for the post-doctoral position** should include a work sample (extract from the dissertation, max 15 pages). All applications are supposed to include a letter of motivation, a CV, a list of publications, work certificates, scientific certificates, and the names of two university teachers, who can be asked for a letter of recommendation. Applications will be accepted in both English and German, with a mention of the respective level of language skills.

Please hand in your application in a **single** document until **30 April 2018** via the application portals. Interviews are planned to take place in early July.

For further information please contact:



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