



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

### **12 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 the Enlightenment(s), but also on "bridges" between the human and natural sciences and on the study of religion.

For the period **October 2015 to July 2017** we are inviting early career scholars to join one of the research teams for the study of either:

- ***Globalising the Enlightenment: Knowledge, Culture, Travel, Exchange and Collections, or:***

- ***Human Rights, Constitutional Politics and Religious Diversity, or:***

- ***Primate Cognition: Philosophical, Linguistic, and Historical Perspectives.***

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.

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

The deadline for applications is 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015.

For further particulars please see: [www.lichtenbergkolleg.uni-goettingen.de](http://www.lichtenbergkolleg.uni-goettingen.de)

## **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 provided on our homepage [www.lichtenbergkolleg.uni-goettingen.de](http://www.lichtenbergkolleg.uni-goettingen.de).

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

### **Eligibility**

Candidates are eligible during a 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 30/09/2015.

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 2015 and ending in July 2017.

### **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

The selection committee will meet at the end of March 2015. We aim to inform applicants of the decision of the committee by mid-April. You will receive a positive or negative response or a communication informing you of your position on the waiting list.

## **How to apply**

- Prepare your CV with a list of publications.
- 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.
- Documents necessary: Ph.D. degree certificate or statement that Ph.D. has been handed in.
- Prepare a cover letter stating: 1) your first name, 2) your family name, 3) your citizenship, 3) the year you received your PhD, 4) the name of the university that awarded you your PhD, 5) the title of your project proposal, 6) your academic subject/field (i.e.: history, literature, psychology, etc.), 7) the research focus you are applying for and 8) the names and institution of the two referees who are sending your letters of references.
- Please send all documents as one pdf file to [lichtenbergkolleg@zvw.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:lichtenbergkolleg@zvw.uni-goettingen.de) and indicate in the subject of your e-mail to which one of the three research areas you are applying.
- Two confidential letters of reference (also in pdf) should be sent directly by the referees or via a dossier service/agency to [lichtenbergkolleg@zvw.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:lichtenbergkolleg@zvw.uni-goettingen.de).
- All application material has to be in English. Please provide translations of certificates if necessary.
- 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.

**The application should be sent (as one pdf document) directly to [lichtenbergkolleg@zvw.uni-goettingen](mailto:lichtenbergkolleg@zvw.uni-goettingen).**

**It should contain:**

- 1) a cover letter as specified above**
- 2) CV and publication list**
- 3) research and academic career statement with the title of your research project**
- 4) Ph.D. degree certificate or statement that Ph.D. has been handed in.**

**Two confidential letters of reference (also in pdf) should be sent directly by the referees or via a dossier service/agency to the same email address.**

## 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

The Lichtenberg-Kolleg's research profile is built on the attempts of the past years to focus on a set of main themes, or „umbrellas“. Currently, three research foci that represent strong interests of the Göttingen faculties are taken up by the Kolleg.

First, the interdisciplinary study of the Göttingen and European 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 umbrella, namely the study of religion 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 Lichtenberg-Kolleg fosters building bridges between the natural and human sciences.

Göttingen University with its great strengths in the natural sciences and its rich traditions in the humanities and social sciences seems like an apt place for the reflection and reconstruction of the dialogue between natural and human sciences.

For the period October 2015 to July 2017 three specific research topics have been identified under each umbrella. For each topic a specific research team will be set up, in close cooperation with Göttingen colleagues. The composition of each research group will be a mixture of Göttingen faculty, Senior Fellows, Mid-Career Fellows and Early Career Fellows – with a strong emphasis on the development of an Early Career Fellowship programme.

### 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.

In 2015-2017, the upcoming research group in enlightenment studies will be established under the topic “Globalising the Enlightenment: Knowledge, Culture, Travel, Exchange and Collections”.

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.

The research activities in Göttingen are developed in cooperation with the scholars from the universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Uppsala.

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
- natural history, medicine and university collections
- enlightenment literature and the arts
- global history of knowledge

- media and infrastructures
- 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 \(Department of Medieval and Modern History\)](#)  
[Prof. Dr. Martin Gierl \(Faculty of Theology / Lichtenberg-Kolleg\)](#)  
[Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Werner Heun \(Institute for General Theory of State and Political Sciences\)](#)  
[Prof. Dr. Karin Hoff \(Department of Scandinavian Studies\)](#)  
[Prof. Dr. Manfred Jakubowski-Tiessen \(Department of Medieval and Modern History\)](#)  
[Prof. Dr. Thomas Kaufmann \(Faculty of Theology\)](#)  
[Prof. Dr. Gerhard Lauer \(Department of German Philology\)](#)  
[Prof. Dr. Bernd Ludwig \(Department of Philosophy\)](#)  
[Prof. Dr. Samuel Salzborn \(Institute of Political Science\)](#)  
[Prof. Dr. Barbara Schaff \(Department of English Philology\)](#)  
[Prof. Dr. Michael Thimann \(Department of Art History and Art Collection\)](#)  
[Prof. Dr. Martin van Gelderen \(Lichtenberg-Kolleg\)](#)  
[Prof. Dr. Andreas Waczkat \(Department of Musicology\)](#)

Collaborating initiatives on Göttingen Campus:

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

Postgraduate Research Groups:

- [The Personal Union of Great Britain and Hanover, 1714-1837: An International Space of Communication and Interaction](#)
- [Expert Cultures from the Twelfth to the Eighteenth Centuries](#)
- [Graduate School of Humanities Göttingen: Post-Doc Project: "Knowledge"](#)

Academy of Science and Humanities Projects:

- [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:

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## 2) Human rights, constitutional politics and religious diversity

This thematic research group at the Lichtenberg-Kolleg (2015-17) is designed 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 will cooperate with junior researchers and senior visiting fellows in the following three thematic areas. (a) Secularism and constitutional reforms. Comparative research in this area will focus 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 will focus 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 will scrutinize historical and contemporary examples of transnational Christian and Islamic 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 will 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.

Participating scholars at the Göttingen Campus:

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

[Prof. Dr. Anja Jetschke \(Political Science, University of Göttingen & GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies\)](#)

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



[Prof. Dr. Anja Seibert-Fohr \(Law, University of Göttingen\)](#)

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

[Prof. Dr. Ayelet Shachar \(Law, University of Toronto\)](#)

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

Contact:

Dr. Kora Baumbach

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### 3) Primate Cognition: Philosophical, Linguistic, and Historical Perspectives

Both human and nonhuman primates maneuver in complex social environments and use elaborate communicative means to regulate their social relationships. This life in a complex social setting is believed to have driven primate brain evolution and intelligence. Within the [Leibniz Science Campus on Primate Cognition \(LSC\)](#), scholars from psychology, behavioral biology and neuroscience have teamed up to contribute to a better understanding of the evolution of intelligence, taking an interdisciplinary and comparative perspective. Three core questions shall be addressed: the integration of information from multiple sources in social decision-making, the role of social cognition in primate communication, and the question what makes social cognition special compared to non-social cognition.

The questions posed and the answers collected by this kind of research will have strong repercussions for the way we conceive the differences between human and nonhuman primates, and ultimately, what it means to be human. Moreover, the way we judge the available evidence is strongly influenced by the wider scientific discourse. In the past years, for instance, we have seen a surge of interest in Animal Studies in the humanities ("animal turn"), which will feed back on the discourse in the natural sciences. In addition, there is still considerable debate to which degree primate communication offers insights into the origin of language. Finally, many of the themes presently addressed in the cognitive sciences effectively constitute old philosophical questions, with important implications for ethical considerations in primate research.

We now want to take the opportunity and bring together researchers from the humanities and the natural sciences in the newly established LSC. Together with the Lichtenberg-Kolleg, we invite applications of exceptionally open-minded and talented young researchers with a strong interest in interdisciplinary research for a temporary research group for the period of October 2015 to July 2017. Applicants may have diverse backgrounds such as philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, history of science, media studies or related fields. Fellows will receive the opportunity to investigate their own research questions in collaboration with colleagues from the natural sciences and the humanities. Fellows will be affiliated with the Lichtenberg-Kolleg and the LSC, have access to the LSC's facilities and services and are expected to support our outreach activities by organizing events for a broader audience.

Board of Directors:

[Julia Fischer \(Cognitive Ethology, German Primate Centre - DPZ\)](#)

[Stefan Treue \(Cognitive Neurosciences, German Primate Centre - DPZ\)](#)

[Julia Ostner \(Social Evolution in Primates, University of Göttingen\)](#)

[Hannes Rakoczy \(Department of Developmental Psychology, University of Göttingen\)](#)

[Fred Wolf \(Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience, Göttingen\)](#)

Additional Göttingen scholars involved:

[Tanya Behne \(Biological Developmental Psychology, University of Göttingen\)](#)

[Claudia Fichtel \(Behavioral Ecology & Sociobiology/Anthropology, German Primate Centre - DPZ\)](#)

[Alexander Gail \(Cognitive Neurosciences Laboratory, German Primate Centre - DPZ\)](#)

[Andreas Glöckner \(Psychological Assessment, Judgment and Decision Making, University of Göttingen\)](#)

[Oliver Gruber \(Centre for Translational Research in Systems Neuroscience and Psychiatry, University Medical Center Göttingen\)](#)

[Kurt Hammerschmidt \(Cognitive Ethology, German Primate Centre - DPZ\)](#)

[Nivedita Mani \(Language Acquisition, University of Göttingen\)](#)

[Lars Penke \(Biological Personality Psychology, University of Göttingen\)](#)

[Annekathrin Schacht \(Courant Research Centre "Text Structures", University of Göttingen\)](#)

[Hansjörg Scherberger \(Neurobiology, German Primate Centre - DPZ\)](#)

[Oliver Schülke \(Courant Research Centre "Evolution of Social Behaviour", University of Göttingen\)](#)

[Stefan Schulz-Hardt \(Economic- and Social Psychology, University of Göttingen\)](#)

[Michael Waldmann \(Cognition and Decision Making, University of Göttingen\)](#)

[Melanie Wilke \(Division of Cognitive Neurology, University Medical Center Göttingen\)](#)

[Florentin Wörgötter \(Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience, Göttingen\)](#)

[Dietmar Zinner \(Cognitive Ethology, German Primate Centre - DPZ\)](#)

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