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## About this Guide

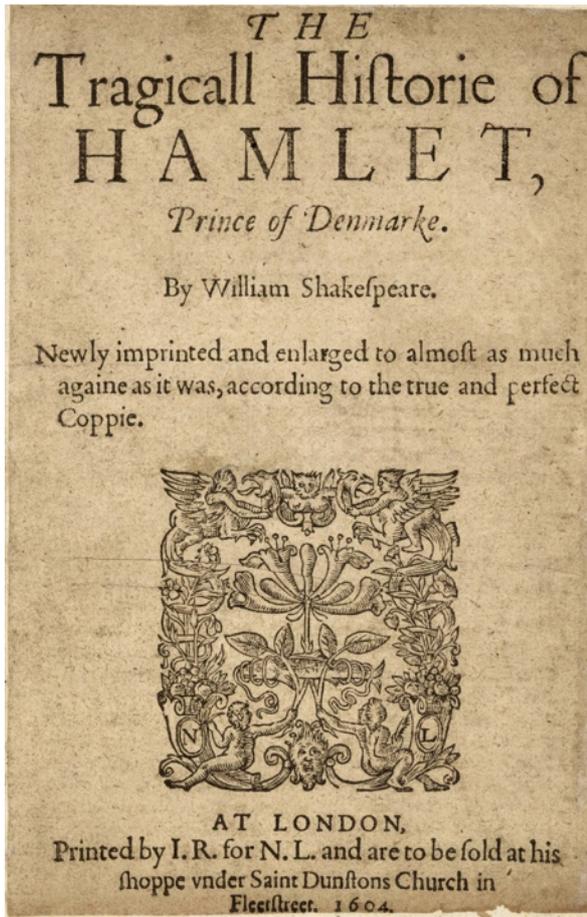
This handbook is intended to answer some of the questions that you may have about supervision in GSGG's *Nachwuchsgruppen*. It has been written by the Postdocs who have responsibility for supervising doctoral researchers in their respective *Nachwuchsgruppen*, and outlines the tasks and expectations of doctoral researchers, supervising Postdocs, and the GSGG itself.

**This guide is not intended to replace any existing guidance on supervision**, either on the GSGG website or available through your own institute/department. It does however provide guidance for both doctoral researchers (also referred to as supervisees/junior members) and Postdoc supervisors of the GSGG about their relationship, and how it differs from supervision by your *Doktorvater/-mutter*.

### Contents

Who's Who and What's What.....3	GSGG Postdoc Supervision.....4
<i>Nachwuchsgruppen</i> .....3	Mutual Expectations.....5
Postdocs.....3	What You Can Expect from Your GSGG Supervisor.....5
Your Time At The GSGG .....4	What GSGG Supervisors Can Expect from Their
What you get as a Junior Member of a GSGG	Supervisees.....7
<i>Nachwuchsgruppe</i> .....4	Making It Work.....8
	Comments, Complaints, and Suggestions .....8

# Who's Who and What's What



## **Nachwuchsgruppen**

There are four *Nachwuchsgruppen* ('Early Career Research Groups') at the GSGG, with the following focal themes:

Multiple Modernities (*Multiple Modernen*)

Religion (*Religion*)

Language, Cognition and Text (*Sprache, Kognition und Text*)

Knowledge (*Wissen*)

For further details on these groups, see the GSGG website (<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/sh/44659.html>). They each contain two Postdoc members, mostly from different disciplines, whose work engages closely with the focal theme.

## **Postdocs**

There are eight postdoc members of the GSGG. Their *Nachwuchsgruppe*, disciplines, and research interests are listed in the following table.

<b>Multiple Modernities</b>		
Jens Elze	English	Mimesis and Modernity: Varieties of Style in Anglophone Literature from Shakespeare to Conrad
Florian Kappeler	German	tbc
<b>Religion</b>		
Gösta Gabriel	Assyriology	The Rescue of Meaning. Retrospective Constructions of Causality and Meaning in Sumerian Religious Narrations of Southern Mesopotamia
Erika Manders	Ancient History	The Economy of Imperial Ideology and the Christianization of Empire, AD 249-395
<b>Language, Cognition and Text</b>		
Daniele Panizza	Psychology	The Interpretation and Processing of Scalar Items and their Relation with Entailing Patterns
Christiana Werner	Philosophy	Who's Afraid of Fictional Characters? Intentional Objects of Emotion in the Reception of Fictional Texts
<b>Knowledge</b>		
Claudia Nickel	Romance Studies	The Image of Religious Diversity. Literature and Knowledge in the Early Modern <i>guerres de religion</i>
Andrew Wells	History	Localising Liberty: Freedom in the British World, c.1660-c.1760

# Your Time At The GSGG

## What you get as a Junior Member of a GSGG *Nachwuchsgruppe*

As a junior member of one of the GSGG  
*Nachwuchsgruppen*, you will receive:

- a desk in the peaceful GSGG villa
- access to WLAN and copying facilities
- opportunities to present and receive feedback on your work
- a six month membership term, extendable by mutual agreement
- supervision from one or both of the Postdoc members of the group.

## GSGG Postdoc Supervision

It is up to you how much or how little involvement you want to have with your GSGG supervisor(s), but it is strongly recommended that you take full advantage of the opportunity: your GSGG supervisor can offer a fresh perspective on your work, mainly (but by no means exclusively) on the basis of a shared thematic interest, and they are able to advise you on a range of matters, including

- academic practice, including researching, writing, and presenting your work
- career plans (especially regarding an academic career) within Germany and abroad
- funding opportunities
- conferences
- getting published
- establishing academic contacts



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# Mutual Expectations

## Important

- Your GSGG supervisor (who will usually form part of your thesis committee) will **complement** your *Doktorvater/-mutter*, not replace them. Your first port of call for intellectual matters should remain your academic supervisor. You should feel free to discuss intellectual problems with your GSGG supervisor, but your academic supervisor ultimately takes precedence.
- You and your GSGG supervisor(s) need to sign a doctoral agreement, which specifies the rights and duties of both supervisee and supervisor.

## What You Can Expect From Your GSGG Supervisor

1. Close liaison with your *Doktorvater/-mutter*, including periodic reports on what you and your GSGG supervisor have discussed and on what, if any, action you have agreed with them.
2. An introductory meeting should be held within 3 weeks (during term time) of your joining one of the *Nachwuchsgruppen*, in which you and your GSGG supervisor should discuss mutual goals for your time as a member of the *Nachwuchsgruppe*. Some of this conversation will probably already have taken place during your interview.
3. Subsequent meetings will be by mutual agreement between you and your GSGG supervisor, but it is anticipated that you will have the opportunity to meet at least once a month during term time. Such meetings need not be formal, i.e. they can take place at a monthly colloquium.
4. You can expect your GSGG supervisor to respond to e-mail communications in a timely fashion; supervisors can expect the same from their supervisee.
5. Each GSGG supervisor is a postdoctoral researcher in the humanities, although not necessarily in their supervisees' discipline. You can expect your supervisor to be aware of common issues and approaches shared by the humanistic disciplines, and to be able to provide guidance on these and on general good academic practice. You should **not** expect your GSGG supervisor to be an expert in your particular area of research. GSGG supervisors cannot be expected to be familiar with all of the methodological perspectives, source material, or academic conventions (written or otherwise) of every (sub-)discipline.
6. You can expect the timely return of any written work (of chapter/article

# Mutual Expectations

- length) submitted to your GSGG supervisor. In term time this will usually mean that such work will be returned within 2 weeks. You should be aware that the return of submitted work can take longer during the vacations, when work is substantially longer than chapter/article length, and if it is in a language of which your supervisor is not a native speaker.
7. You can expect detailed and constructive comments/criticism from your GSGG supervisor of any written work submitted. These comments will relate primarily to the intellectual content of the work and not its format. You should not expect detailed proof-reading in either your own or a foreign language.
  8. The GSGG *Nachwuchsgruppen* are committed to providing their junior members with a range of opportunities to hone their professional and presentational skills. You can expect to be given the chance to present your work at a GSGG event, such as a colloquium.
  9. You are welcome at any time to make suggestions and recommendations about any aspect of your experience in the GSGG, its *Nachwuchsgruppen*, and as a supervisee. You can expect such comments and suggestions to be taken seriously and treated with respect.



'Introitus' to W. A. Mozart, Requiem (K626). Codex 17561a, fo. 1r. Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Wien.

# Mutual Expectations

## What GSGG Supervisors Can Expect From Their Supervisees

1. Supervisees are responsible for completing the necessary formalities and paperwork to have their GSGG supervisor added to their thesis committee. They should also ensure that their GSGG supervisor is kept informed of committee meetings or other significant events in the process of completing the dissertation that would require their attention as a member of the committee.
2. Supervisees should exercise initiative in arranging meetings with their GSGG supervisor. Some supervisees will find that they need/want to meet with their supervisor more often than others and, as the aim of GSGG supervision is to provide a source of intellectual mentorship beyond the traditional system of doctoral supervision, the requirements of one supervisee will differ from those of another. There is no set programme for supervision, so supervisees should consult with their GSGG supervisor as much or as little as they see fit.
3. However, supervisees should respect their GSGG supervisor's time. Postdocs have not only to provide supervision for the junior members of their Nachwuchsgruppe but also have responsibility for a range of administrative and other duties, in addition to completing their research and publications. Wherever possible, supervisees should stick to an agreed schedule and arrange meetings in advance. Notwithstanding this, supervisees should not hesitate to get in touch if they are experiencing difficulties, no matter how small or trivial they might seem.
4. Junior members should participate in the activities of their Nachwuchsgruppe, as indeed in those of the GSGG, to the fullest extent possible. They are arranged largely for their benefit and require regular participation to be sustainable and successful.
5. Supervisees should try to attend events that are less formal and more social, but this is by no means compulsory.



Detail from Bayeux Tapestry (c.1077). Musée de la Tapisserie de Bayeux, Bayeux.

# Making It Work

We all – GSGG management, the professoriate, Postdocs, and junior members of the GSGG – share the responsibility to create and sustain a thriving research culture. We can only do this if everybody plays their part, so get involved!

## Comments, Complaints, and Suggestions

If you have any comments or suggestions to make about the supervision provided by the GSGG, or you would like to make a complaint, your initial calling point should be your GSGG supervisor. They can forward your comments to the correct individual, or put you in touch with them. If your complaint concerns your GSGG supervisor, or you would rather not address your issue with them, then you should get in touch either with the other Postdoc in your section or, for more serious matters, with Nele Hoffmann or Sabine Heerwart (for contact details, see the GSGG website).



*Poster for the Labour Party, 1910 UK General Election*

Andrew Wells  
Jens Elze  
Gösta Gabriel  
Erika Manders

Claudia Nickel  
Daniele Panizza  
Christiana Werner

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