

UNIVERSITÄT ERFURT
Forschungszentrum Gotha

Research *tandem* teams on Global Intellectual History wanted

New Fellowship Programme
of the Gerda Henkel Foundation at the
Gotha Research Centre

GERDA HENKEL STIFTUNG

UNIVERSITÄT ERFURT
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Gerda Henkel Global Intellectual History Tandem Fellowships

The Global Intellectual History deals with transnational and especially transcultural linkages of bodies of knowledge. Yet, questions about global interconnections and transfers pose a special challenge to researchers: no one can have all the necessary language skills and competences, possessing at the same time expertise for Europe and China, for Africa and South America, or for Islam and Hinduism. This is where the programme steps in, by focusing on a collaborative form of scholarly work. Two researchers with complementary expertise on a particular research question are invited to apply with a joint project outline, e.g. a Sinologist and an expert on 18th century Europe, a specialist in Islamic studies and a Renaissance scholar, or an Africanist and an expert on Latin America. In this way, questions will be addressed that will render far-reaching transmissions or interconnections visible.

Working with Gotha‘s treasure trove of sources should serve as a basis for a collaborative publication or research proposal. It is a distinctive feature of Gotha that it offers three institutions in one place: (1) one of the largest early modern libraries in Germany, (2) an early modern residential palace with extensive collections of objects and art from all over the world, and (3) a university research centre with expertise in the history of ideas, culture and knowledge. This enables not only competent guidance in research, but also the combination of different types of sources: written sources such as manuscripts and old prints can be linked with objects from the ducal cabinet of curiosities, the ethnological collection, the Perthes map collection, the painting gallery, the Chinese cabinet, etc. – and all in the collection‘s original location, and thus in the context of historical practices of collection. This environment can create considerable added value for analysis and far greater significance in findings.

The new fellowship programme aims to create synergies between subject- and language-bound bodies of knowledge and, in particular, to help bring expertise from the global south and so-called minor disciplines into research projects at the research centre. In this way, we can shatter narratives established in early modern research and decenter European perspectives.

We are looking for research tandems consisting of two post-docs who have written their dissertation in two different disciplines and are applying with a joint project. Fellowships can be awarded for three to a maximum of six months. **They can start in March 2027 and have to be completed by end of December 2027. The scholarship amount is 2300 EUR/month.** Grants are available for publication costs. A family allowance of 400 EUR is also granted if children are being cared for. In 2021, the University of Erfurt was once again awarded the berufundfamilie / family-friendly university audit certificate and was thus distinguished as being particularly family-friendly. Fellows with children will be assisted with finding childcare options. The Research Centre also offers support in finding accommodation.

The Gerda Henkel Fellows participate in academic life at the Gotha Research Centre and report on their research project in a public colloquium lecture. Residence in Gotha is compulsory for the duration of the scholarship.

The application deadline is 10 January 2027, 23:59. The application documents must be submitted in full and in a PDF file (max. 5 MB) in the above order by e-mail.

Applicants are requested to enclose the following documents with their application:

- a cover letter with details on the desired period,
- a project description (3-5 pages) including a statement why it is necessary to stay in Gotha in order to carry out the project (please indicate the holdings to be consulted); it is recommended that you contact the library before submitting your application,
- a CV for each applicant,
- copies of relevant certificates, in particular the respective doctoral certificates,
- a letter of reference for each applicant from a university teacher confirming the applicant‘s academic aptitude for the planned project,
- signed consent to the processing of personal data (find the form online).

The letters of reference must be sent separately to the Research Centre by the deadline by the university teachers whose names are noted in the cover letter.

Contact:

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