

DOCTORAL POSITION in “Historical Materialism and the Anthropocene”

The new Cluster ROOTS – Social, Environmental, and Cultural Connectivity in Past Societies in the frame of the German Excellence Initiative explores social, environmental, and cultural processes that have substantially shaped past human development (and which are still active today). Research is organized in six research units (i.e. subclusters) covering six foci: (1) Environmental hazards and impacts; (2) Dietary intake and disease; (3) Knowledge production, technology, and innovation; (4) Population agglomeration and urbanisation; (5) Social differentiation and inequalities; and (6) Conflict and conciliation. The ROOTS ‘Reflective Turn’ will enable cross-disciplinary dialogue and enquiries within and between research foci, providing an overarching theoretical frame.

Research Associates and PhD students participate in the ROOTS Young Academy. The ROOTS Young Academy brings together young experts from an array of disciplines, which support ROOTS research with innovative research ideas. The Young Academy provides young researchers with excellent conditions for a successful career and personal development.

We invite applications for the **Doctoral Position „Historical Materialism and the Anthropocene”** to begin as early as possible.

Profile: Philosophy, History

Within the ROOTS cluster of excellence, a “reflective turn” group will engage with epistemological and theoretical topics within archaeology and early history. Within this research group, the successful candidate shall address basic epistemological and philosophical research questions, including: Which roles play concepts, hypotheses, models, inferences, and middle-range theories in understanding the remote past? Which trends in the current debates on philosophy of archaeology deserve close attention? How can findings of natural sciences and humanities be combined to robust interdisciplinary bodies of archaeological knowledge? How might knowledge about pre-historic societies contribute to the recent debate on the Anthropocene and its presumptive origins? How might historical knowledge on origins of the Anthropocene contribute to contemporary political and ethical debates about justice and sustainability? A close interdisciplinary cooperation between the reflective turn group and the six sub-clusters of ROOTS is expected.

Required qualifications: The ideal candidate should hold an excellent MA degree in philosophy or in history. She*He should be familiar with the epistemology of historical knowledge, approaches in historical materialism, the recent debate on the Anthropocene, and social philosophy. Complementary expertise in either archaeology, economics, or environmental history would be an asset.

We are seeking a highly qualified and motivated doctoral fellow to conduct high-quality interdisciplinary research within the frame of ROOTS. The graduate program is jointly offered by academics of the Humanities, Mathematics and Natural Sciences, and Life Sciences. The Doctoral Candidate will be hosted by the ROOTS Young Academy and will be affiliated with the

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Johanna Mestorf Academy at Kiel University (www.jma.uni-kiel.de). Innovative research ideas are supported by the extensive infrastructure and Graduate Centre at Kiel University. The position holder will be eligible to apply for research funds. Supervision will be provided generally at an interfaculty level by supervisors from two different disciplines. Salary will be at 65% (currently 25,16 h/week) of level TV-L 13 of the federal wage agreement scheme (Tarifvertrag der Länder). The term is fixed for a period of 3,5 years (42 months).

Kiel University is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to increasing the proportion of female scientists in research and teaching, and strongly encourages female applicants. Women will be given preference in case of equal suitability, competence, and professional performance. The University is also committed to the employment of disabled person, and such individuals will be accorded preference if suitable.

Applications by people with a migration background are particularly welcome.

Please address your application (cover letter; CV (including list of publications); the proposed doctoral project (max. 1500 words), including a brief summary, state of the art, a concise project description, and a work schedule; and the name of two references with contact information; a copy (in .pdf format) of your master-thesis or proof of equivalent qualification; certificates of academic degrees) as **one single .pdf document** until **4th October 2019** to:

Search Committee
Speaker Prof. Dr. Johannes Müller
Cluster of Excellence ROOTS
Kiel University
Leibnizstraße 3
24118 Kiel
Germany

via e-mail
application@roots.uni-kiel.de

All documents must be submitted in English, with the exception of the copy of the master-thesis.

For additional information, please contact:
Prof. Dr. Konrad Ott (speaker of the Reflective Turn Forum, ott@philsem.uni-kiel.de)