

CFP
Workshop “Intersectionality. Analysis, Communication, Intervention”
10 - 12 February 2022, University of Bayreuth

On November 2nd 2022, with the generous support of the Hans Böckler Foundation, the University of Bayreuth will inaugurate an interdisciplinary doctoral college of Intersectional Studies in cooperation with the Friedrich Alexander University at Erlangen-Nürnberg and the Phillips University at Marburg. The „Promotionskolleg für Intersektionalitätsstudien“ (PK 053) will be the first European doctoral college to place intersectionality at the centre of its research, in order to explore intersectional social inequalities and their transformation through appropriate interventions. This bi-lingual workshop (German and English) aims to afford the opportunity for the researchers leading this college and potential doctoral applicants to get to know each other.

At the College of Intersectionality Studies, professors and admitted doctoral candidates will collaborate with associated researchers from Germany and abroad, as well as work together with union representatives and actors engaged in a range of social movements. The professors involved represent the transdisciplinary approach of this doctoral programme. They include Prof. Susan Arndt (English studies), Prof. Ingrid Artus (sociology), Prof. Andrea Behrends (ethnology), Dr. Serawit Debele (religious studies), Prof. Matthew Hannah (geography), Prof. Annette Henninger (political science), Prof. Thoko Kaime (law) and Prof. Kristin Skottki (history). Prof. Maisha Auma (educational science and diversity studies), Prof. Ulrike Lembke (law) and Prof. Shankar Raman (literary studies) are members of the college’s advisory board. The PhD programme for intersectionality studies will be framed as a transdisciplinary project that brings together a wide variety of approaches to intersectionality research as interventional praxis and draws on the wealth of (international) expertise in this area. Accordingly, the College seeks to consolidate existing research on intersectionality in the German and European academic landscape and thereby establish intersectionality studies as a scientific discipline in its own right. The College will rely on structured doctoral training, while at the same offering the freedom for individual research and work. Given its emphasis on transdisciplinarity, it seeks doctoral researchers from diverse disciplinary and thematic backgrounds, who share an abiding interest in critically viewing intersectional social inequalities and in exploring modes of intersectional solidarity and justice.

The work of the College will be carried out by four research groups (FG) that cooperate in a transdisciplinary and mutually interdependent manner. The first research group has “Analysis” as its focus, and will research processes, institutions and narratives from a historical perspective, while taking its reference from contemporary social processes. The second FG focuses on “Communication” and from this perspective explores formats, media and spaces. The third FG deals with “Interventions” and the actors, strategies, and measures related to interventional praxis. Labour (worlds) and models of participation; human rights and their violation; memory and projections into the future; narratives and representational patterns as well as practices of resistance and solidarity are at the fore of the first 3 FGs. Combining

analysis, communication, and intervention, the fourth FG dedicates itself to issues germane to “Labour(worlds) and intersectional solidarity.”

A total of 12 doctoral scholarships will be awarded in the College’s first year, with an application deadline of May 26, 2022. In the run-up to the formal announcement of the competition, the Doctoral College for Intersectionality Studies would like to inaugurate its investigations with a workshop on the topic of “Intersectionality Research,” to be held at the University of Bayreuth from February 10 to 12, 2022. The workshop will be devoted to the question of how one can analyse and communicate the emergence of social inequalities out of overlapping axes of power along with the intervention strategies that result from this nexus.

The workshop is organized and designed by the members of the Doctoral college for Intersectionality Studies and financed by the Hans Böckler Foundation. Talks by the members and associated researchers will frame the workshop, which is intended to provide a window into some of the topics that can be studied at the College as well as the modalities of how to apply. Above all, however, the workshop seeks to afford space for reflection and conversation to those who are considering applying for a doctoral scholarship. Thus, in addition to conventional talks (15 min), other presentation and discussion formats will be possible, such as poster presentations or discussion instructions. The workshop will conclude with a plenary discussion that explores the terms intersectionality, discrimination and privilege. The talks and presentations are open to a range of questions. How do structures and individual actions, as well as discrimination and privilege, interact with intersectional social inequalities? How can one speak about discrimination across the totality of society without reproducing patterns of discrimination? How can interventions be made to function as the sand in the machinery of intersectional social inequality? How can one derive intersectionality competencies from these interventions that can then promote transformations, for example in the context of labour law?

The workshop is specifically aimed at young researchers who wish to apply for a funding as part of a doctoral program in intersectionality studies. Hence, applicants are encouraged to give talks or other forms of presentation that outline ideas for a doctoral project or shed light on other intersectional research fields. The aim is not to present already completed research, but to enable discussion and debate in order to shed light on the potential of intersectional research. In this sense, partially sketched ideas are welcome, as are proposals from early career researchers whose expertise in intersectionality is only just developing. In line with the character of a workshop, this event is also about jointly developing research questions and advancing initial project ideas through new questions.

In order to participate in the workshop, please apply by January 2nd, 2022 to susan.arndt@uni-bayreuth.de. Your application should contain a short sketch of the idea of the proposed talk or project (max. 300 words) and a short résumé. You will be notified regarding your participation on January 10, 2022. For speakers, accommodation costs can be covered and travel costs can be covered or subsidized (up to EUR 150 within Germany / Europe and up to EUR 800 for other continents).