

Information for Candidates

applying for the Assistant Professor
(Juniorprofessur)

Comparative Sociology and Japanese Society

at the

Faculty of Social Sciences
and
The Institute of East Asian Studies

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I. THE UNIVERSITY OF DUISBURG-ESSEN

UNIVERSITY OF DUISBURG-ESSEN: A STRONG PARTNER IN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE) is located in a region boasting the highest concentration of universities in Europe. With an enrollment of 30,500 students and 4,300 academic and non-academic staff members, the UDE is one of the ten largest universities in Germany. Established on 1 January 2003 with the merger of the University of Duisburg and the University of Essen (both of which were founded in 1972) – the UDE is the youngest university in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The strengths of the new twin-campus university span programs and research centers in the social sciences, economics, the humanities, engineering, the natural sciences and a medical school with a clinical research facility.

Most degree programs are now offered in the form of Bachelor and Master degrees. The university boasts a number of interdisciplinary degree programs, and invests strongly in e-learning facilities and support.

The University has five specific research foci:

- Nanosciences
- Genetic Medicine and Medical Biotechnology
- Urban systems, Logistics and Transport
- Empirical Education Research
- Transformation of Contemporary Societies

The university has been awarded funding by the German Science Foundation for three large collaborative research consortiums and a research training group in the field of nanotechnology, establishing the UDE as an important center in Germany for this field. In 2009 the nanosciences will receive 43 million Euro from the federal and state governments to build a new nano-energy technology centre.

Research in the field of genetic medicine includes the subject of genetic diagnostics. The aim of such work is to help doctors assess morbidity risks and predict the course the diseases may take. Activities here include the study of different kinds of reaction to pharmaceuticals. Medical research at the UDE is interdisciplinary, linking the faculties of physics, chemistry and engineering sciences — to go beyond the traditional research ties between medicine and biology. In the newly founded Center of Medical Biotechnology, the focal points of interdisciplinary studies are: tumor research, tissue and organ replacement, molecular recognition and digital image recognition. In 2009 the university was awarded a new collaborative research center by the German Science Foundation to study, in cooperation with Chinese researchers, immune reactions and interactions between viruses and cells.

Taking advantage of the UDEs situation in one of the largest metropolitan regions in Europe, engineers, economists, natural scientists and social scientists collaborate in the study of the future of urban systems and sustainable development. Some of the key areas of study include urban traffic planning, mobility patterns in passenger and freight traffic, an

intelligent integration of waste and traffic management into urban infrastructure, and water quality assessment on a reliable basis.



UDE is a leading center of teacher training in the region and a center of educational research, with German Science Foundation funding for both an interdisciplinary research group to study school-based education and pedagogy, and a research training group to train future scholars in this important research field. In these research activities staff from the fields of empirical education research, many of them focusing on science education, but also covering teaching methodology and educational psychology are working on the development of a more competitive education system in Germany — this being a widely discussed topic since the recent PISA survey.

The economic and social sciences cooperate in a number of interdisciplinary institutes, all with strong comparative and inter-regional competence, to study the transformation of contemporary societies. The Institute of Work and Qualification, the Institute of East Asian Studies and the Institute of Development and Peace at the UDE are internationally recognized leaders in basic and applied research on the major challenges faced by a globalizing world. In 2009 the German Science Foundation awarded the UDE a new research training group on Risk and East Asia, dedicated to inter-regional comparisons of market transformations, political, economic and social institutional changes in East Asian and European comparisons. In research about the Transformation of Contemporary Societies, staff from both faculties of Economics, the Educational Sciences and the Social Sciences are developing cutting-edge research collaborations on the impact of globalization on state and labor institutions in both the northern and southern hemispheres.

Self-evaluation and quality management are professionally organized in the University's own Center for University Development. With the establishment of a vice-president for Diversity Management in 2008, the university is pioneering programs for better integrating non-traditional and international students in its teaching and research programs.

II. Faculty of Social Sciences

The Faculty of Social Science is located on the Duisburg Campus. Two degree granting institutes offer programs from the BA to Doctoral levels of qualification: The Institute of Political Science and the Institute of Sociology. In cooperation with the Mercator School of Management the Faculty also oversees the degree programs of the Institute of East Asian Studies. Two important research centers are also integrated into the Faculty of Social Sciences: The Institute of Development and Peace, and the Institute of Work and Qualification.

The Faculty places a strong emphasis on mentoring BA students throughout the three-year course of study. Tutors are assigned to all large lectures, and offer additional small group discussion groups. Seminars are limited to 40 students, and multiple offerings keep most seminars well below this limit. In postgraduate studies three degree programs are on offer: MA Policy Management, MA International Relations and an MA in Sociology. An additional MA Survey Methods is in planning. In addition the faculty is involved in teacher training for future educators in the social sciences.

At present, approximately 2400 students (50% female) study in the degree programs, which are offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences. The MA Programs in Policy Management and International Relations are limited to 20 new entrants per year, and the MA Sociology to 40. These limits guarantee intensive supervision at the post-graduate level.

These BA and MA degree programs replaced the traditional German “Diplom” degrees in 2006. However, about 500 students are still enrolled in the “Diplom” programs, which will be progressively phased-out over the next few years.

The Faculty of Social Sciences is committed to monitoring and improving teaching quality: Classes and seminars of all members of the teaching staff are evaluated on a regular basis.

The Faculty participates in a number of international student exchange activities, with a special emphasis placed on the Erasmus program of the EU. At present the two degree-granting institutes maintain exchanges with European partners in the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, France, Spain, Turkey, Hungary, Sweden, among others.

The NRW School of governance is a flagship of the faculty, offering professional training at the doctoral level in methods and practice of modern governance. Researchers in the various university institutes are currently building new research collaboration on failed states and development policy and cross-border labor markets. A German Science Foundation “Research Focus” on the development of Survey Methods in social research is coordinated out of the Institute of Sociology, in collaboration with the University of Bremen and the German Institute of Economic Research (DIW) in Berlin.

The research of the Faculty of Social Sciences is supported by external research grants totaling about 3.5 million Euro pro year. In 2008 the Faculty took the lead in a new research focus of the UDE on “Transformation of Contemporary Societies”. Further information about research activities in this program can be found under: <http://www.uni-due.de/gesellschaftswissenschaften/profilschwerpunkt/>. A central activity is the reform of doctoral training in the form of structured doctoral programs and improved supervision: <http://www.uni-due.de/dok-net/>.

III. The Institute of East Asian Studies

The Institute of East Asian Studies (IN-EAST), established in 1994, is a Research Center of the University of Duisburg-Essen, engaged in both research and graduate education on East Asia.

With 6 professorships and more than 20 scholars from different disciplines in the social and economic sciences, many third-party funded, IN-EAST is the most comprehensive university institute committed to contemporary East Asian studies in Germany. Professors as well as research associates belong to one of three faculties:

- Faculty Business Administration /Mercator School of Management
 - Chair of East Asian Economy /Japan and Korea (Prof. Dr. Werner Pascha)
 - Chair of East Asian Economy / China (Prof. Dr. Markus Taube)
- Faculty of Social Sciences
 - Chair of Comparative Sociology and Japanese Society (Prof. Karen Shire PhD)
 - Chair of Politics of East Asia (Prof. Dr. Thomas Heberer)
 - Chair of Society and Politics in East Asia (Not Named)
 - Junior Professor of Comparative Sociology and Japanese Society (N.N.)
- Faculty of Humanities
 - Chair of Language and History/ Culture of Modern Japan (Prof. Dr. Florian Coulmas (on leave; currently director of the German Institute for Japanese Studies in Tokyo), acting chairman Dr. David Chiavacci)

The advertised Assistant Professor (Juniorprofessur) for Comparative Sociology and East Asian Studies is positioned in the Faculty of Social Sciences, with secondment to the Institute of East Asian Studies.

The In-East degree and research programs represent an innovation within the German landscape of language-based studies of non-Western regions, drawing inspiration from the Anglo-American concept of area studies. The institute's approach to East Asian studies seeks to apply the theory and research perspectives developed in the economic and social science disciplines as guiding frameworks for conducting research on contemporary East-Asian studies. The different chairs cooperate closely in research and teaching.

The institute has a strong record in research competitively funded by the German Science Foundation. In 2009 IN-EAST was awarded a large grant for the establishment of a research training group on Risk and East Asia, in close collaboration with the UK White Rose East Asia Centre, and in cooperation with the Institute of Social Sciences, University of Tokyo, and the Faculty of Sociology and Population Studies, Renmin University. This new program will award five doctoral stipends to excellent students every year, and fund a group of post-doctoral research scholars. More specific information about this program is available at the web-site: www.uni-due.de/in-east.

In-East now offers an English-language MA degree program in Contemporary East Asian Studies (2 year course), and in the next year, will offer a German language BA (4 year) and MA (1 year) sequence. Strong language training in either Chinese or Japanese, and disciplinary training in the social and economic sciences complement the specific courses in East Asian regional studies in these programs.

The BA and MA degree programs replaced the traditional German "Diplom" degrees in 2006. However, about 200 students are still enrolled in the "Diplom" program, as it is still in a phasing-out stage.

While Korean language is not offered by the institute, as far as possible, In-East seeks to integrate Korean Studies into its programs.

The institute is the initiator of the East Asian Studies Research School Network (EastAsiaNet: www.eastasianet.eu) – a newly founded network of leading European institutions in Asian research with a commitment to developing cooperation in research training programs.

Detailed information about the institute is provided on the Internet at www.in-east.de

IV. Job Requirements / Description of the Assistant Professor “Comparative Sociology and Japan Studies”

W1 – Professorship “Comparative Sociology and Japan Studies”

The position is non-tenure track. Recruitment will be conducted by a joint commission of the Institute of Sociology and the Institute of East Asian Studies. A starting date of October 1, 2009 is preferred.

1. Research

The Duisburg concept grounds regional studies research and teaching in the theories and methods of the social and economic sciences. The appointment is to the Faculty of Social Sciences, Institute of Sociology, with membership in the Institute of East Asian Studies.

The successful candidate will have demonstrated research expertise in comparative sociology, which may include a focus on historical comparative methods, comparative institutionalism and both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. The desired focus is on Japan in East Asia, but candidates with a different East Asian focus, who can demonstrate competence also in teaching Japan Studies will also be considered.

The successful candidate is expected to develop a new research project within the research program of the German Science Foundation funded Research Training Group on “Risk and East Asia”. The teaching load is adjusted to permit a stronger research focus and full participation in the training and research activities aimed at doctoral candidates in the Research Training Group.

An orientation toward the acquisition of third-party funds and peer reviewed publication are expected.

2. Teaching

Teaching responsibilities cover undergraduate and graduate curricula in East Asian Studies and the social sciences, with primary responsibilities lying in the BA Sociology (Comparative Sociology lecture and seminars), the MA Sociology (Comparative Sociology and research seminars) and the English-language MA in Contemporary East Asian Studies (especially the modules “The Japanese Society” and “Economic Sociology of Japan”).

Teaching in the BA and MA Sociology is generally in German, but excellent international candidates will also be permitted to teach exclusively in English.

While limited to German language at present, the university center for development offers training courses for new and young staff. The successful candidate may receive training and support from the center.

3. Further requirements

The successful candidate will have a solid command of English and an East Asian language (either Japanese or Chinese, in exceptional cases a Korean focus may also be acceptable).

4. Teaching Load and other specifications

The Assistant Professorship has a teaching load of 4 contact hours per semester. This is a reduced teaching load to permit the successful candidate to pursue research and support the activities of the Research Training Group.

A strong commitment to developing the research program, especially in the form of a “post-doctoral research group” with the post-doctoral scholars in the program, and strong participation in the governance, organisation and implementation of the training and qualification program “Risk and East Asia” are expected. Please consult the homepage for further information about the qualification program of the Research Training Group (www.uni-due.de/in-east).

V. Legal Framework

With the passing of the Higher Education Law in North-Rhein Westphalia Act (German abbreviation: HG) dated 31.10.2006, the university system was granted considerable autonomy in self-governance and finances as of 1 January 2007.

Operating under German law, the universities in North-Rhine Westphalia are defined legally as public corporation. State finance is based on the personell stand of the universities in 2006, supplemented by innovation funds and performance-based bonuses. The university has its an own budget, and is no longer subject to the instructions of the federal state government Ministry of Innovation, Science, Research and Technology.

Legal status of the academic staff

With some restrictions, professors in Germany are usually employed on a civil-servant basis (Beamte). However, employment on the basis of a contract under private law is also possible (Angestellte).

Assistant professors (Juniorprofessuren) can receive civil-servant status for the duration of three years. That civil-service contract may be extended for a further period of three years, on the basis of an internal evaluation of achievements during the first three years.

On the wish of the candidate, or in the case of a failed evaluation, civil-servant status may, alternatively, be extended for an additional one year. The maximum duration for a non-tenure track position is six years.

For further information (laws, directives etc.), please visit http://www.uni-due.de/zentralverwaltung/dez4_1_0.shtml

VI. SALARY

The rank of W1 refers to the official salary scale system for university professors as regulated by state ordinances. The basic monthly salary is €3,405.34. Regulated by federal law, family and child allowances may be added to this monthly base salary.

The university regulations governing performance-based pay, available at present only in Germany, can be found under: http://www.academics.de/image-upload/duisburg-essen%20lbv_0.pdf.