



The University Alliance Ruhr (UA Ruhr) joins together the competences and resources of the Ruhr-University Bochum, the Technical University of Dortmund, and the University of Duisburg-Essen with the aim of further developing their performance and competitive position.

Within the framework of the Volkswagen Foundation's sponsorship of the graduate research group ***Scripts for Postindustrial Urban Futures: American Models, Transatlantic Interventions*** (see <http://www.amstudies-ruhr.de>), we seek to fill the following position for a total of four years from the period September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2022:

**1 Doctoral Research Assistantship (PhD position) in
American Studies / Latinx Studies (TV-L 13, 65 %)**

The objective of the UA Ruhr's graduate research group is to carry out transatlantic research on acutely influential scripts that seek to design a sustainable, creative, or (socially and culturally) inclusive future for postindustrial urban communities in the USA and Germany. These scripts are directives and guidelines with a significant societal impact. They are communicated narratively, medially and figuratively; they pick up development trajectories from the past, continue them into the present and develop scenarios for the future. The emphasis here is on transatlantic processes of exchange that refer back to the pioneering American self-stylizations and interpretive patterns of the late 20th and early 21st century. Working with a solid foundation in American Studies, each member of the graduate research group will research one project on developments in selected postindustrial cities (list of projects to be carried out: <http://www.amstudies-ruhr.de>).

We now seek applications from candidates interested in one of the seven doctoral projects, tentatively titled "Raising Ethnic Voices: Counter-Discourses in the Contemporary Cultural Scenes of New York City and Los Angeles." The envisioned research will focus on the non-white creative classes scripting two major U.S. cities today. It thus focuses more on "American models" than on "transatlantic interventions." Based on extended periods of professional training / internships, the employment entails detailed collaborations with Afro-Latino, Mexico City-born rap artist, poet, essayist, film-maker, and lecturer Bocafloja [Aldo Villegas] and his Quilomboarte Collective (in New York City) as well as with Tía Chúcha's Centro Cultural (in Greater Los Angeles). The dissertation can deal with a wide range of materials ranging from literary texts, music, film, and the visual arts to performance art, websites, and documents of community activism. The candidate will research critical interventions in hegemonic urban discourses. She/he will document and explore material that proposes oppositional scripts (in English and in Spanish) and their emphasis on ethnic inequalities. Moreover, the dissertation project will examine the interplay between such initiatives and "mainstream" discourses and practices of urban planning. The scripts examined in this project center on questions of ethnic pride, racism, social inequality, police repression, gang wars, drugs, crime, violence, poverty, shattered dreams; they craft visions of a different America. These scripts endorse post-industrial urban futures that question white/nativist privilege and heed ethnic difference in the city in order to be relevant—in the United States and elsewhere.

Organizational Structure:

- Employment at the University of Duisburg-Essen includes field work / work for professional partners in the United States for a total of up to one year. In-depth cooperation with public institutions and private companies involved in urban development thus is an essential component of the research position. Our professional partners for this doctoral project are the Quilomboarte Collective (New York, www.emancipassion.com) and at Tía Chúcha's Centro Cultural (Sylmar, CA, www.tiachucha.org).

- The graduate research group is located in the Department of Anglophone Studies at the University of Duisburg-Essen. The primary workplace during academic training will be in Essen; further locations will be defined by the internship.

Your Profile:

- You will have completed your Master's degree (or equivalent degree) with a prerequisite focus in American Studies, Latinx Studies or in other related fields.
- You are willing and able to cooperate with our practical partners and with other members of the graduate research group.
- You will have near-native command of English; significant knowledge of Spanish will be needed, but can be acquired during the first year of employment.

The graduate research group is part of the one-time funding program "Scholarship and Professional Practice in Graduate Education" sponsored by the Volkswagen Foundation. The program aims to allow doctoral candidates to gather (up to) one year of practical experience in professional fields and thus also to qualify themselves for work outside the university context in the course of their doctoral education.

The universities of the UA Ruhr aim to increase the diversity of their members (see <http://www.uni-due.de/diversity>; <http://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/chancengleich/>; <https://www.tu-dortmund.de/uni/de/Uni/Diversitaet-an-der-TU-Dortmund/Aktive/Stabsstelle-CFV/index.html>).

They also seek to increase the proportion of women among their academic personnel and, therefore, expressly invite qualified women to apply. Women will be given preference in the case of equal qualification according to the federal equality act.

Applications by qualified individuals with disabilities or handicaps (see § 2 Abs. 3 SGB IX) are also desired.

Please send your documents in PDF form (max. three attachments) with the subject line "Application: Scripts Graduate Research Group" and **the code Kennziffer 370-18** to the supervisor of the project, Prof. Dr. Josef Raab (e-mail: josef.raab@uni-due.de), and the speaker of the group, Prof. Dr. Barbara Buchenau (e-mail: barbara.buchenau@uni-due.de), by **June 30, 2018**. The documents should include a cover letter, resumé, copies of transcripts and degrees, a copy of your Master's thesis, and an exposé of five pages for a dissertation project on the theme of "Raising Ethnic Voices." The exposé should relate your proposed project to the conceptual focus of the research training group and to the work of the internship partners.

Interviews for the position will be held on Friday, July 13, 2018. For any questions about the research group or the application process, please contact Prof. Raab or Prof. Buchenau. Detailed information on the group, the possible dissertation projects, and the training program, including its practical phases, are available on the website of the RuhrCenter of American Studies, which is maintained by the three universities: <http://www.amstudies-ruhr.de>.