

XXXI. Call for applications – Interdisciplinary Main Research Area “Transformation of Contemporary Societies”

New call for applications to support theme development workshops, preparation of large interdisciplinary grant applications, and early-career research projects initiated by members of the Main Research Area and PhD students working in its respective disciplines

Following its research support scheme, the Main Research Area “Transformation of Contemporary Societies” invites applications for its three different funding lines. Members of the research area and doctoral students in relevant disciplines, e.g. from the Faculties of Social Sciences, Economics, Humanities, and Educational Sciences are entitled to apply. Project funding will be granted on condition that the regarding projects contribute to and fit into the area’s agenda “Building Order in a Borderless World” (see our website), which currently includes four developing themes: i) transnational labour markets, ii) the transformation of risk and welfare, iii) global and transnational governance, and iv) international migration. Additional projects related to its programmatic focus are also welcome. Special attention will be given to interdisciplinary projects integrating and promoting cross-institute and faculty cooperation which i) aim at acquiring third-party grants, ii) add to the internationalization and visibility of the social sciences, the arts & humanities and other disciplines at Duisburg-Essen University (UDE) and and/ or ii) advance UDE’s young academics in the respective fields.

Funding line 1 – Initiatives for theme development

The aspiration of a theme proposal should be the investigation of a research topic with regard to its potential for networking at the University Duisburg-Essen (UDE) and its feasibility for a possible cross-faculty application for major external grants. Grants are awarded for different ideas and initiatives, not limited to theme development workshops. Funding might cover experienced moderators, costs for venue or housing etc.

Funding line 2 – supporting grants for large interdisciplinary grant applications

This programme is intended to support an interdisciplinary UDE-based project team that needs additional funding to facilitate the application process for substantial third party funding. The support needs to be explained and justified in detail. The research area can provide financial support for up to the equivalent of 12 months of a TVL-13 (50%) position. However, no organisational support, e.g. in the budget management or hiring process, can be provided.

Funding line 3 – support for early career researchers

Applications are intended for postdocs, junior professors or PhD students without participation of a full professor (W2/W3). The proposed projects must enhance cooperation between early career researchers of a different institutional context and should add substantively to the research area’s agenda. We highly welcome ideas supporting the cooperation between members of the various graduate schools and centres. Projects with the long-term objective of an external grant application are desirable, but not necessary. Funding could go to resources for data collection, workshops, publication support or other ideas. Early career researchers can also apply for programmes 1 and 2.

Requirements

Applications must not comprise more than seven pages and should provide the following information:

- an explication of the research question, its positioning in the state of the respective field of research, and the schedule intended
- a detailed explanation of the interdisciplinary and inter-departmental nature of the project and of its added value to the research area's agenda "Building Order in Contexts with Disintegrating Borders"
- a cost and work plan
- if the project is directed towards preparing an application for third-party funding (irrespective of the project volume), please indicate the specific programme and planned action (e.g. DFG Research Training Group) it aims at, the envisaged budget and application deadlines.

Applications under funding lines 2 and 3 intended to apply for large grant sums should further should include information about the scientists involved, their existing collaborations and previous joint achievements. The application must show that the Principal Investigators have considered thoroughly the organisational and strategic details of their intended grant application. Support in this context can be sought from the Science Support Centre of the UDE before the submission to this call.

Applications for theme development workshops should contain a description of the topic, a list of researchers who have indicated an interest to participate, as well as a rationale why the chosen topic offers promising avenues for cross-faculty collaboration within the main research area and the prospect of successfully applying for major external funding.

We are unable to fund projects without the objective of a major third-party grant application (except for funding line 3) or intermittent positions of projects already in place.

The Steering Committee of the Main Research Area "Transformation of Contemporary Societies"

Applicants are required to submit their application as a pdf-file via e-mail to psp_wandel@uni-due.de no later than **May, 13th, 2018**. **We highly recommend getting in contact with Dr Maike Müller before submission to clarify any questions.** Further information regarding the call or a research area's membership is provided by the research area's homepage.¹

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¹ see: <https://www.uni-due.de/gesellschaftswissenschaften/profilschwerpunkt/mainresearcharea.shtml>