

Research Training Group (RTG 2225/2)

World Politics: *The emergence of political arenas and modes of observation in world society*



Invitation for applications for:

**Ten Doctoral Positions
(With a duration of 3 years)**

Application Deadline: tba
Starting Date: 01 October 2023

The Research Training Group (RTG) deals with the emergence of world politics as a specific type of politics. With a pronouncedly re-search-oriented, interdisciplinary, and international profile, it investigates the pathways that have led to the establishment of world politics as a specific form of politics, not somehow resulting from the modern form of the (nation) state, but concurrent with it as well as with the principle of sovereign equality. Using a world society perspective, the RTG inquires how the emergence of world politics has been (and still is) both a corollary of and a precondition for the constitution of modern states. Through its research program and its institutional affiliations, the RTG seeks to promote a dialogue between the fields and approaches of International Relations, International Political Sociology, Global History, and Legal Studies in relation to world society approaches.

We are looking for highly motivated researchers with doctoral research projects that fit the RTG thematic scope. The RTG invites original proposals from the fields of Political Science/International Relations, History, Sociology, and Legal Studies that contribute to its research program. An interdisciplinary orientation of research projects is encouraged. The RTG's working language is English.

Further information on the application process can be found at: <https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/worldpolitics/>

Required documents for the application:

- Research Proposal related to doctoral research
- (max. 10 pages)
- Curriculum Vitae (including publication list, if applicable)
- Degree certificates
- Two letters of Recommendation

Research Training Groups

Research Training Groups (RTGs) are established by universities to promote young researchers. They are funded by the German Research Council for a period of up to nine years. The key emphasis of the RTGs is on the qualification of doctoral researchers within the framework of a focused research program and a structured training strategy. The aim is to prepare doctoral researchers for the complexities of the job market in science and academia and simultaneously to encourage early scientific independence.

Local Research Environment

The RTG is closely associated with the Institute for World Society Studies, which regularly organises workshops and lectures of interest for RTG members. The Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology (BGHS) offers additional opportunities for those RTG members pursuing their dissertations within the Faculties of Sociology (which includes IR and Political Science) and History. The participating faculties have rich research traditions associated with, for example, modern systems theory (Niklas Luhmann) or conceptual history (Reinhart Koselleck).

The University

Bielefeld University was founded in 1969 with an explicit research assignment and a mission to provide high-quality research-oriented teaching. With around 25,000 students, the university currently encompasses 14 faculties.

Funding

The RTG will recruit a third cohort of doctoral researchers in 2023, for a starting date of 01 October 2023.

Doctoral researchers will receive contracts as research associates (65% of salary level E13)* for three years and are expected to complete their dissertations during that time (this is *not* a fellowship, but an employment contract with the requirement of being present at the university). Participating researchers are expected to contribute to, and to co-organise a number of workshops during their tenure at the RTG, particularly involving a range of international cooperation partners. Some funding is available for short research visits abroad and for participating in conferences.

*The exact salary depends on personal circumstances and work experience, but 65% of an E13 monthly gross income can be expected to be in the order of 2500 EUR, subject to social security contributions and income tax.

Applications

The positions will be officially advertised in early 2023 and selection will take place through a selection process during the spring of 2023.

Detailed information on the advertisement will be published on the following RTG webpage: <https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/worldpolitics/>

Please do not apply before the positions are advertised officially.

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Description

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Qualifications

Applicants should hold a graduate degree or equivalent in Political Science/IR, History, Sociology, or Legal Studies. Further information on the application process can be found at:

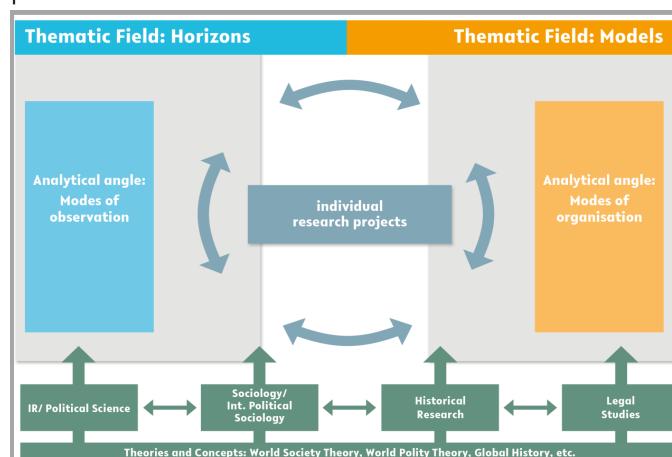
<https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/worldpolitics/>

Required documents to be included with the application:

- Research proposal (maximum 10 pages)
- Curriculum Vitae (including publication list, if applicable)
- Degree certificates
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RTG 2225 'World Politics: The emergence of political arenas and modes of observation in world society'

The Research Training Group (RTG) focuses on the emergence of world politics as a distinct field of the political embedded in a world society environment. Rather than reducing world politics and its history to a range of dominant organisational forms, such as nation-states or empires, and the relations between them, the group adopts a comprehensive perspective covering the processes and practices that underpin the emergence of world politics as a highly complex social realm. Accordingly, it builds on the expertise of different fields – International Relations, Sociology (world society theories), Global History, and International Law, in order to situate itself in, as well as contribute to, a fast-growing international research landscape of 'global historical sociology'. Informed by a variety of disciplinary inputs, the group applies the distinction between modes of observation and modes of organisation as perspectives on linked but separate aspects of world political evolution. These thematic fields cover, firstly, world politics as a horizon of comparing that links geographically and socially distant structures and processes and, secondly, global models, 'scripts' and 'blueprints' of specific practices and actors in world politics.



Research Program: Core research idea

The RTG examines the emergence of world politics as an arena for political action, communication, and observation. Situated in a broadly understood, interdisciplinary field of international political sociology, it regards world politics both as a specific form of organizing relations among political actors, and as a framework of political communication, observation, and comparison among states as well as other actors. The RTG investigates the mechanisms and forces, as well as the struggles and resistances that have led to the establishment of world politics as a specific form of politics that does not sit somehow 'above' nation-states,

but in fact emerges concurrently with the modern form of the (nation) state and the normative ordering principle of sovereign equality that, in turn, is enshrined in the evolving law of nations (international law). In this context, the RTG adopts and critically reflects on a world society perspective in order to analyse and to explain the dynamics that underlie the processes of modern state formation on the one hand, and the structuration of the global political field in which states are embedded on the other hand.

Qualification Program

The main goal of the RTG's qualification programme is to foster the timely completion of high-quality doctoral dissertations and to prepare doctoral students for careers within and beyond academia.



Beyond this core aim, the qualification program is designed to ensure that doctoral researchers benefit from being integrated into an international research environment right from the start of their doctoral research projects. English is the RTG's working language. Doctoral researchers are encouraged and partly required to be active in publishing the results of their own work, particularly also in order to 'advertise' their research in the relevant research communities.

While retaining a solid footing in their home discipline, they are also actively encouraged and partly required to present and to discuss their work in a research environment at Bielefeld University oriented towards interdisciplinarity.