

German and European Studies as Area Studies – Present Developments and Future Challenges

A researchers' workshop, 17-19 December 2015, Haifa

A call for papers

The Haifa Center for German and European Studies at the University of Haifa (HCGES) and the DAAD Center for German Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (CGS) are happy to invite junior researchers (post-doctoral, doctoral and master students) studying contemporary Germany and Europe at the DAAD centers' network, to attend a conference on regional and area studies and to present their work at a researchers' workshop adjunct to the conference.

The study of modern Germany and Europe, within the DAAD centers' network and elsewhere, is mostly conducted in the framework of "area studies". Regional and area studies are not a new academic phenomenon. However, after WWII and particularly in the last decades they have been broadened vis-à-vis the research objects (Israel studies, for example is an addition of the last decade) and have taken a different form – more interdisciplinary and contemporary. The International conference on regional and area studies and the workshop for research students are aimed to reflect on these developments and to assess them, focusing on an interdisciplinary dialogue across the Humanities and the Social Sciences and also on the different research agendas and substantive analyses reflected by different geographical viewpoints.

The same topic or research question regarding Germany or Europe might be analyzed differently by different scientific disciplines (history, law, economics, art and photography, literature, political science, philosophy, etc. each with its own particular scientific methodology and language) and also viewed differently by the same discipline from different parts of the world, based on experiences and local traditions, norms and local points of reference related to the researcher's background. The participation of researchers from across the DAAD Centers in three continents can provide a wonderful opportunity to examine if indeed same topics are dealt with differently by various scientific disciplines and viewed or interpreted differently in different parts of the world.

An international conference reflecting on these issues will be held between 14th and 16th of December, followed by a DAAD researchers' workshop (17th-19th of December). The workshop is aimed for presentation of papers by junior researchers with comments and discussion by some of the conference participants. The dates of the conference and workshop will enable the participants also to take part in the bi-annual DAAD researchers' workshop, which will be held in Amsterdam between 8th and 13th of December.

The papers presented will be selected by a scientific committee comprising faculty members from several DAAD centers on the bases of merit, with an attempt to bring together in each session papers on the same topic, reflecting different scientific disciplinary approaches and perspectives from the viewpoints of different societies and cultures. Each paper will be discussed

by senior researchers with feedback by peer students, and each session will also include concluding remarks relating to the methodological and comparative issues.

The selected paper will entitle their presenters to travel expenses (economy) from their respective Centers to Israel and back home. Expenses covered include accommodation during the conference in Jerusalem (14-16 December 2015) and the workshop in Haifa (17-19 December 2015), as well as conference lunches, in accordance with DAAD regulations.

Selection Process

Eligible applicants: doctoral and master students and junior researchers (up to 3 years since doctoral completion) associated with the DAAD centers for the study of modern Germany and Europe.

A proposal should include

- motivation letter
- topic
- short abstract (up to 1 page)
- draft of a full paper is optional but advisable
- CV

All materials should be submitted by **August 31st** to Cathrin Shalev -

cshalev1@univ.haifa.ac.il.

The selection committee will deliberate the proposals and announce its decisions by **September 30th**.

Supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) using funds provided by the German Federal Foreign Office.