



October 31, 2011

## Call for Applications: Short term grants on pivotal themes in area studies

Dear Colleagues,

the Center for Area Studies (CAS) at Freie Universität Berlin (FU) is pleased to announce that it is launching a pilot project to promote **early career researchers (postdoctoral) in area studies**.

The pilot project aims at supporting early career researchers in the period between completing their dissertations and developing a grant proposal for their individual postdoctoral project. This grant will enable outstanding postdoctoral researchers from area studies and the social sciences to develop grant proposals addressing pivotal themes in area studies. In addition to developing their own projects, grantees will be able to discuss their research ideas in the course of thematic workshops with internationally renowned scholars.

Thus, the Center for Area Studies invites applications for

**short-term grants (6-9 months) for postdoctoral research projects in area studies.**

In this program, the Center for Area Studies invites applications **relevant to the following themes:**

### 1. Migration, Exile and Diaspora

We understand Migration Studies as a multidisciplinary research focus, spanning the complementary fields of political science, sociology, anthropology, geography, economics, and law.

Possible fields for research are:

- Public Policy Responses to International Migration
- Migration and transnational political spaces
- Development, Diaspora and Migration
- Community and the 'Problem of Minorities'
- International Law and the Protection of Migrants
- Racial Formations and Migration
- Migration and Social Policy

### 2. Business, Culture and Society

The research focus on business, culture, and society is an interdisciplinary field of research that includes contributions from economics, sociology, anthropology, political science, law, and cultural studies.

Possible fields for research are:

- International and comparative approaches to corporate social responsibility
- Relationships between firms and NGOs
- Corporate volunteering



- New approaches to business ethics
- “Ethical Consumerism”

### 3. The Politics of Public Religions

Over the last decade, scholars have explored the multiple ways in which religious actors have established themselves in the public sphere, thereby redrawing the boundaries between religion and the (secular) state, private and public, and the overall position of faith and religious practice in the globalizing world.

Proposals in this field should address the way religion is (re)inscribing itself in the political, economic and socio-moral orders of different regions and societies of the world; and how this process opens new spaces for engagement, contestation and interaction between institutions, groups and individual actors across national and regional boundaries. Particular emphasis should be put on the political and economic aspects of these ongoing reconfigurations.

#### Terms and Conditions:

The grant amount is based on the standards set by the German Research Foundation (DFG): a stipend of €1500 per month. The stipend is not considered employment and is thus exempt from taxes and social security contributions.

The Center for Area Studies invites applications from outstanding postdoctoral researchers who have completed their dissertations in area studies within the last 12 to 14 months and who propose an innovative project either in a traditional area studies discipline or in the social sciences with implications for area studies. In the 6 to 9 months fellowship, postdoctoral researchers are expected to develop a grant proposal for submission to an external funding agency for an FU-affiliated research project.

Postdoctoral researchers funded through this program must be present at FU during the entire period of their scholarship. A shared work space and library access will be provided.

**Deadline for submission of applications is November 7, 2011.** Pending funding availability, a second call for applications will be published in January 2012.

Scholars who are interested in the program are asked to submit to the CAS office the following documents in digital format (.docx, .doc, or .pdf): an outline of their proposed research idea, indication of the funding agency and program to which the project proposal shall be submitted, a copy of their dissertation and the dissertation evaluations by the dissertation committee, copies of at least two relevant publications as well as a c.v. and copies of degrees and other relevant employment and academic credentials.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Verena Blechinger-Talcott (CAS director)

Prof. Dr. Marianne Braig (CAS board)



Prof. Dr. Hansjörg Dilger (CAS board)  
Prof. Dr. Gudrun Krämer (CAS board)  
Prof. Dr. Georg Witte (CAS board)