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## **Producing knowledge about and for Africa in Germany and Brazil** **PROBRAL Collaboration Program**

### **Call for Applications – Postdoc Grant**

The International Collaboration Project “Producing knowledge about and for Africa in Germany and Brazil” is offering early-career scholars a post-doctoral temporary position at the Institute for African Studies at the University of Leipzig, Germany.

Our project aims at connecting the spheres of knowledge production about and for Africa in Brazil and Germany through critical mutual reflection on historical and contemporary practices. On our agenda, we focus on the development of knowledge production on Africa with an increased role for knowledge from Africa. We seek to investigate theoretical, institutional, and political factors of scholarship on Africa and its circulation, taking Brazil and Germany as focal points. Our goal is to offer more and better opportunities for mobility to researchers of various academic levels and related to multiple disciplines of the Humanities to foster the internationalisation of participating institutions and, especially, the advancement of African studies in Brazil and Germany. The critical scrutiny provided by the project emphasises the interdisciplinary vocation and commitment to contemporary social issues and challenges, with special regard for research agendas promoted by African scholars and institutions.

We are selecting one early-career scholar with a proven record of research and publication on African Studies to conduct research and engage in academic exchanges at the Institute for African Studies at the University of Leipzig, involving both established researchers and PhD students from Germany, Africa, and other parts of the world based in Leipzig, Bayreuth, and Berlin. Research proposals should focus on the dynamics of knowledge production about Africa.

The Institute for African Studies at the University of Leipzig is one of the leading centres in Germany for Africa-related research in the social sciences, including anthropology, politics, social and economic history, and reflections on the production of knowledge. The Albertina Library houses an extensive collection of books and other resources for African studies dating back to the 19th century. The university archive contains information on the history of the academic study of Africa and African students who studied at Leipzig. The institute projects itself as a centre for critical African studies. It has close collaborations with the university’s Institutes for Anthropology and Global Studies and with the Grassi Museum in Leipzig (one of Germany’s prominent ethnographic museums) and its extensive collection of African objects. The institute also collaborates closely with the two other leading German centres for African Studies, the University of Bayreuth and the Humboldt University of Berlin.

## REQUIREMENTS

To apply, you should:

- be a Brazilian citizen or a permanent resident;
- currently live in Brazil;
- hold a PhD degree earned in the last 8 years (March 2017 or later);
- not have been awarded a postdoc grant abroad from a Brazilian public funding agency in the previous 2 years.

## BENEFITS

Selected candidates will receive:

- an economy-class return trip to Germany;
- a €2,100 monthly stipend;
- a €2,100 lump sum to cover installation costs;
- a monthly €90 lump sum to cover international health insurance.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Research proposals should plan a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 10 months in Leipzig, starting in September 2025.

Postdoc researchers will be assigned a local supervisor (see below a list of project participants in Germany). They should be based in Leipzig for the entire scholarship duration (except for short-term research trips). They are expected to attend project-related and other academic activities regularly and present the results of their research in a project seminar to be held in mid-December in Leipzig with members of the project team based in Germany and Brazil. Papers presented in the seminar are expected to be further developed and later submitted to an indexed journal (in Portuguese or English). Co-authoring arrangements, involving Brazilian and German team members, are enthusiastically welcome.

## APPLICATION

Applications should be sent to [fbaqueiro@ufba.br](mailto:fbaqueiro@ufba.br), stating “Application – PROBRAL Postdoc” as the subject field. Attach PDF copies of the following documents:

- an official ID;
- your PhD diploma;
- a proof of residence in Brazil (utility bill or bank statement);
- a curriculum vitae (printed from Lattes Platform);
- a research proposal, clearly identifying your research subject, outlining your conceptual framing and methodological options, together with a detailed work plan and timetable (max. 6p., in English).

Foreigners should include a certificate they are permanent residents of Brazil.

Ensure all documents are in PDF format and your email message does not exceed 5 MB. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

## LANGUAGE

All project activities will be conducted in English (a B2 level is the minimum required). If you have one of the accepted certificates (see below), please include it in your application email; otherwise, the selection committee will assess your language skills based on your research proposal and, if pre-selected, a brief remote interview.

Any of the following language proficiency certificates are accepted:

- Duolingo English Test obtained in the last 2 years (105 min.);
- TOEFL iBT (incl. Home Edition and MyBestScore) obtained in the last 2 years (72 min.);
- TOEFL ITP obtained in the last 2 years (543 min.);
- IELTS obtained in the last 2 years (6 min., with 5 min. in each band);
- Cambridge Exams – FCE, CAE or CPE (B2 min.).

## CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICANTS

February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 at 11.59 p.m., Brasília time (GMT-3).

Results will be communicated to all candidates by April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## POTENTIAL SUPERVISORS IN GERMANY

**Dmitri van den Bersselaar** <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5508-6700>

Professor of History and Director of the Institute of African Studies, University of Leipzig. MA in History (1992) and PhD in Social Science (1998) on “In Search of Igbo Identity. Language, Culture and Politics in Nigeria, 1900-1966”, both at Leiden University. Taught at the University of Liverpool from 1999 until 2017. He works on the social, cultural, and economic history of West Africa, specifically Ghana and Nigeria, during the colonial period, decolonisation, and postcolonial period. This includes an interest in traditions of colonial, missionary and academic knowledge production about Africa, knowledge exchange from the perspective of African actors, as well as how African knowledge societies emerged and knowledge exchange took place. He has experience as Director of several MA programs, including Atlantic History, International Slavery, and African Studies. He was the founding Director of the Research Center for the Study of International Slavery in Liverpool and conducted collaborative projects with several museums, including the Liverpool World Museum, the Tate Gallery, the International Slavery Museum, and the Jenevermuseum.

**Ulf Engel** <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5557-2757>

Professor of Politics, Institute of African Studies, University of Leipzig. Dipl. Political Science (1987) and PhD in Political Science on “The Foreign Policy of Zimbabwe” (1993), both at the University of Hamburg. Habil. (1999) on “Germany’s Africa Policy 1949-1999” (University of Hamburg). Professor Engel has experience as Director of several MA and PhD programs, including African Studies and Global Studies.

**Katja Werthmann** <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3782-003X>

Professor of Anthropology at the Institute of African Studies, University of Leipzig. MA in Anthropology (1990) from Goethe University, Frankfurt-Main and PhD in Anthropology (1996) from Free University Berlin. Habil. (2004) in Anthropology at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. She has experience as Director of the MA in African Studies, a former director of the Institute of African Studies, and a former president of the African Studies Association in Germany.

**Baz Lecocq** <https://orcid.0009-0003-9367-8506>

Professor of African History, Humboldt University of Berlin. MA in African History, Leiden University (1995) and PhD from Amsterdam University (2002) on “Tuareg Rebellions and Competing Nationalisms in Contemporary Mali”. Published broadly on African history on themes including decolonisation and nation-building in Francophone West Africa and the Sahara, the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca from West Africa and its various spatial, political, social, religious and economic dimensions, and social, cultural and political meanings, possibilities, and constraints of mechanical means of transport (ships, trains, cars, and aeroplanes) in the processes of globalisation and modernisation on the African continent.

**Cassandra Mark-Thiesen** <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4099-3273>

Lecturer of African Studies, University of Bayreuth. MA in International Affairs, Florida State University (2008) and PhD from the University of Oxford (2014) on “West African Labour and the Development of Mining in Ghana”. Postdoc project on Education and Agriculture in Liberia, 1840s to 1850s. Current project: African Knowledges and the History Public\*ation since the 1970s. Her publications include the edited volume on “The Politics of Historical Memory & Commemoration in Africa” (2021) and the article “Neglected Historiography from Africa: The Case for Postindependence Journals” in the *Journal of African History* (2023).