

8 PhD scholarships beginning
October 1, 2009



Social Order and Life Chances in Cross-National Comparison

Cologne Research Training Group - SOCLIFE 2008-2013
Kölner DFG-Graduiertenkolleg *Sozialordnungen und Lebenschancen im internationalen Vergleich*

The Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences at the University of Cologne offers **8 scholarships for prospective doctoral students** in social and economic sciences (sociology, political science, law, social policy, economics, social and economic psychology and statistics). Selected students will be funded for 3 years beginning October 1, 2009 (monthly tax-free stipend of 1000 €, allowances of 103 €, and family benefits). SOCLIFE is sponsored as a prestigious "Graduiertenkolleg" (Research Training Group) by the *German Research Foundation* (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG, GK 1461). Applicants are selected according to their academic credentials and a research proposal, which has to be in line with the research and study programme promoted at SOCLIFE. Therefore, we advise the prospective applicants to familiarise themselves with the programme, the work of contributors, the research focus and the application procedure at: www.wiso.uni-koeln.de/cgs/soclifc. The **APPLICATION DEADLINE** is **April 17, 2009**.

Who we are

SOCLIFE offers its students a truly intellectually challenging environment. SOCLIFE is an interdisciplinary Research Training Group bringing together more than 10 professors from the University of Cologne from different fields of the social and economic sciences, statistics and law as well as at least 10 collaborating experts from other universities in and outside of Europe.

As a research strategy, cross-national comparisons are common to many disciplines. However, there are different types of comparisons, each with its own strengths and weaknesses. SOCLIFE aims at bringing together these approaches using multi-level research designs.

Some cross-national comparisons in the social and economic sciences have traditionally focussed on persons within countries, others on macro indicators for countries. The first approach uses harmonized large-scale surveys as a data source and has the advantage of exploiting a broad range of information on individuals. Its main disadvantage is that it maintains the comparisons on the individual level, thereby ignoring the impact of the social constitution and the history of countries. Their influences on both mean values and correlations are not systematically controlled. The second approach uses aggregate data which have often been assembled independently from survey results and which characterize countries as a whole. One major weakness of this approach is that it remains on the aggregate level although causal relationships need to be interpreted by including the actors. As relations are interpreted on the sole basis of the macro level of analysis, the corresponding correlations are overestimated and their meaning remains questionable.

The Research Training Group SOCLIFE will combine both approaches by analyzing the impact of life chances on choices of actions or attitudes of natural or corporate actors within the frame of the social order of politics, economics, civil society and the culture of modern, industrialized and democratic nation states. As for research, general hypotheses on the impact of the social order, the social structure and the social history of countries on actors within countries will be developed and examined by statistical multi-level analysis whenever this is possible. The teaching program will (1) introduce theories and research results, (2) guide students to specify hypotheses for their own research projects, (3) teach them the appropriate analytical strategies and statistical techniques, and (4) acquaint them with approaches and data sources.

A broad range of relevant topics will be researched in the different projects. Each project will be supervised by at least two members of the Research Training Group and discussed by all doctoral students and teachers. Doctoral students are expected to develop their research in a strict time frame, establish contacts within the scientific community and present and publish their results.

Areas of research in GK SOCLIFE:

Culture

- Life Satisfaction and Quality of Life
(Prof. Wolfgang Jagodzinski, Prof. Heiner Meulemann)
- Religiosity and Civil Society
(Prof. Heiner Meulemann, Prof. Detlef Fetchenhauer)

Economy

- Welfare State Regulation of Life Cycle Risks
(Prof. Hans-Jürgen Andreß, Prof. Frank Schulz-Nieswandt, Prof. Michael Wagner)
- Determinants and Consequences of Financial Honesty
(Prof. Detlef Fetchenhauer, Prof. André Kaiser)
- Taxes and Business Decisions in Cross-National Comparison
(Prof. Clemens Fuest, Prof. Hans-Jürgen Andreß)

Politics and Law

- Programmatic Supply Strategies of Political Parties
(Prof. André Kaiser, Prof. Wolfgang Jagodzinski)
- The State Constitution and the Individual
(Prof. Angelika Nußberger, Prof. Frank Schulz-Nieswandt)

Society

- Demographic Development: Quantitative and Qualitative Determinants
(Prof. Eckart Bomsdorf, Prof. Michael Wagner)
- Regimes of Elderly Care in Comparison
(Prof. Frank Schulz-Nieswandt, Prof. Detlef Fetchenhauer)
- Comparative Family Research
(Prof. Michael Wagner, Prof. Hans-Jürgen Andreß)

Methodology

- Survey Instruments in Cross-National Research
(Prof. Wolfgang Jagodzinski, Prof. Hans-Jürgen Andreß, Prof. Heiner Meulemann)
- Statistical Analysis of Data from Cross-National Comparisons
(Prof. Hans-Jürgen Andreß, Prof. Eckart Bomsdorf, Prof. Heiner Meulemann)

What we offer to our students

All courses of the Research Training Group SOCLIFE are offered in English. For a successful 3-year-stay in Germany, knowledge of German is strongly recommended but not expected at the beginning of the program. Courses in German as a foreign language (DAF) are offered by the University of Cologne. You can receive a certificate in the German language examination (DSH).

Foreign prospective applicants can send inquiries concerning language courses, visas and accommodation to the International Office of the University of Cologne/ Akademisches Auslandsamt (http://verwaltung.uni-koeln.de/international/content/index_eng.html).

Degree: The students who have successfully completed the program will receive a German Doctoral Degree (Dr. rer. pol.) in their chosen discipline from the Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences

Network: Besides the professors of the University of Cologne, which represent a wide range of disciplines, SOCLIFE profits from the University's excellent research institutions, the close cooperation with the *Cologne Graduate School in Management, Economics and Social Sciences* (www.wiso.uni-koeln.de/cgs), other local co-operations (e.g. Central Archive/*GESIS-ZA*: www.gesis.org/en/za and *Max-Planck-Institute for the Study of*

Societies; www.mpi-fg-koeln.mpg.de). In addition, a broad network of international experts in substantive and methodological fields will participate in the workshops of SOCLIFE Research and Training Group and will teach courses for its members.

What we expect

Prerequisites: Applicants should have a Master's degree (or a national equivalent, e.g. University Diploma, German Magister, Swiss Linzenziat) in economics, law, political science, psychology, social policy, sociology, statistics, survey research or another discipline related to the social sciences. Good proficiency in statistics and multivariate data analysis is expected. The research interest should be in line with the research promoted at SOCLIFE.

Application

The following documents, in English, should be sent by land mail to:

GK SOCLIFE
c/o Lehrstuhl für empirische Sozial- und Wirtschaftsforschung
Dipl. Volksw. Hawal Shamon
Herbert – Lewin – Str. 2
50931 Köln

- curriculum vitae
- standard application form, which can be downloaded from <http://www.wiso.uni-koeln.de/cgs/download.html>
- notarized copies of your academic degrees and your final school certificate,
- a transcript of records or a diploma supplement,
- a summary of your Master's thesis (2-3 pages),
- evidence of English language proficiency (e.g. TOEFL or a certificate by an English language lector or teacher)
- a research outline related to the overall topic of SOCLIFE and the research areas defined below (2-3 pages),
- two confidential letters of recommendation from two full professors on the standard recommendation form, which can be downloaded from www.wiso.uni-koeln.de/cgs/download.html

The complete application package is due at 5:00 PM on April 17, 2009.
Applications arriving after this deadline will not be considered.



The Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences at the University of Cologne

History: The Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences is the largest and one of the oldest faculties of its kind in Europe. Having emerged from the Handelshochschule (College of Commerce) which was founded in 1901, the Faculty can be considered the starting point for the development of the modern University of Cologne. For decades, the Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences has continued to rank among Europe's leading institutions.

Scientific and social excellence: The Faculty is one of the best reputed faculties of its kind in Germany. The Faculty strives to develop interdisciplinary study opportunities for not only its own students, but also students enrolled in other departments at the University of Cologne. Towards that end, the Faculty has been instrumental in establishing a number of cross-disciplinary courses. The stellar reputation enjoyed by the Faculty is complemented by the high level of social engagement displayed in the research which is actively pursued at this institution. Underscoring this commitment to social and scientific excellence is the fact that many of the Faculty's professors serve not only as expert members on numerous advisory boards and committees, but also as editors for some of the leading professional journals in the field.

Equality management and the university community: The University of Cologne is engaged in many projects which promote women, work to ensure equal opportunities, and strive to implement family-friendly employment policies. In recognition of its long-lasting and serious commitment to equality, the University of Cologne was awarded the coveted E Quality-Award in 2004. For matters of recreation of body and mind and social communication, the University of Cologne offers a wide range of "on- and off-campus" sporting activities (www.hochschulsport-koeln.de) and cultural events and activities (www.kvv-aktuell.uni-koeln.de).

More detailed information on the Faculty, the University and SOCLIFE can be obtained online: www.wiso.uni-koeln.de, www.pressoffice.uni-koeln.de and www.wiso.uni-koeln.de/cgs/soclifl.



The City of Cologne: the fourth largest city in Germany (about 1 million inhabitants)

In Cologne the cathedral spires tower over this more than 2000 year old city and its innumerable cultural and historical treasures, world-famous museums and active art scene. The world feels at home in Cologne, where people meet for a Kölsch (the popular local beer), a chat or simply a laugh. Life in Cologne is uncomplicated and vivacious (www.koeln.de/en/tourism/tourism.html).