

The Department of Anthropology and African Studies at the Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz is seeking applications for

three doctoral fellowships (24 months, 1.000,- €/month plus travel allowance) (starting October 2009 or later)

in the context of a doctoral research group on
The poetics and politics of national commemoration in Africa.

In the year 2010, as many as seventeen African states will celebrate their independence jubilees. These events invite an exploration of the politics and poetics of commemoration, which were, and continue to be, an integral part of nation-building. The doctoral group will undertake first-hand, comparative research, complemented by historical investigations, on the up-coming celebrations. The debates surrounding their organisation, and the imagery and performances they employ, reflect the fault lines with which African nation-building has to contend, such as competing political orientations, issues of social class and gender, and religious, regional and ethnic diversity. At the same time, the celebrations in themselves represent constitutive and cathartic moments of nation-building, aiming to enhance citizens' emotional attachments to the country, and inviting to remember, re-enact and re-define national history. They become a forum of debate about what should constitute the norms and values that make up national identity, and, in the interstices of official ceremonies, provide space for the articulation of new demands for public recognition. A study of the independence celebrations thus allows scholars to explore contested processes of nation-building and images of nationhood.

Visit <http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/info/PRODoktorandenEngl.html> for more information on the doctoral research group.

Candidates are expected

- to have completed a master's degree in anthropology or a related discipline with a grade of 1,3 or better (or equivalent grades from outside Germany) no longer than two years ago
- to have field work experience, preferably in an African country; the ability to work in a team; excellent skills in English and French; at least a working knowledge of German; if possible, knowledge of an African language
- to engage in a PhD project thematically closely related to the doctoral research group and develop a comparative research design to study the upcoming independence celebrations jointly with the other members of the group
- to actively participate in various seminars and workshops (presence in Mainz will be required from October 2009 until the start of fieldwork); to cooperate

with an ongoing MA students' research project on the 2010 independence celebrations

- to teach one seminar course during the phase of data analysis and writing up.

Applications should be submitted before September 15, 2009 and include:

- completed form with personal information (to be downloaded from our homepage; <http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/info/PRODoktorandenEngl.html>)
- project proposal, explaining the aims and thematic focus of the planned research, intended country case study, methods and sources, and the thematic connection with the doctoral research group (maximum of five pages)
- if relevant: publications
- CV
- university degree(s)
- names and e-mail addresses of two referees

Applications and documents should be sent via regular mail or e-mail attachment to the coordinator of the research group:

Prof. Dr. Carola Lentz, Department of Anthropology and African Studies
Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz
Forum 6
55099 Mainz

e-mail: lentz@uni-mainz.de