

Position of a research fellow (m/f/div)

The Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) in Berlin invites applications for the position of a research fellow (m/f/div) with a **3-year contract, starting from 1 October 2020**. The position is filled to work in a project (in the framework of a doctoral dissertation) within the collaborative project **“The Historicity of De-mocracy in the Arab and Muslim World” (HISDEMAB)**, in which the Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) in Berlin, the Leibniz-Center for Contemporary History (ZZF) in Potsdam, the Leibniz-Institute for European History (IEG) in Mainz, and partner institutions in Tunis (Université de La Manouba, Faculté des Lettres, Laboratoire Ressources Patrimoniales) and Amman (Institut français du Proche-Orient -IFPO) join forces. The project is funded by the Leibniz Association via the Leibniz Collaborative Excellence initiative. Due to the duration of the project funding, the position is limited to 36 months and dedicated to the writing of a doctoral dissertation. The salary grade corresponds to the German scheme of employment in the public sector (TVöD E13, 65%). Additional funds for research travel and publications are available. The appointment is subject to the approval of funds.

About the Project:

The collaborative project researches deliberative institutions and practices as well as democratic impulses in North Africa and the Middle East from the 19th century to the present. The advertised position is located at the Leibniz-ZMO in the sub-project “Deliberative Systems in the Arab and Muslim Worlds”. The dissertation project is due to examine the question of the existence and type of forms of deliberation, representation, voting, mediation and negotiation in the societies of the Arab and Muslim world on the basis of a precise and localized case study. Special attention is to be paid to the negotiation of political, cultural, gender and religious questions against the background of the Ottoman past, colonial influence, modalities of independence and development of civil and political life since then. Possible research questions relate to the construction of citizenship law, the question of the confessional or ethnic minorities, the functioning of parliaments and assemblies and debates on the state constitution, as well as citizen movements, mobilization methods, opinion formation, forms of negotiation as well as political and civic considerations. Particular attention is to be paid to the concept of historicity and to the relationships between the examined forms and possible historical roots.

Your tasks:

- Development and elaboration of a doctoral research project in the context of the sub-project in close cooperation with the project leader PD Dr. habil. Nora Lafi
- Autonomous archival and scholarly literature research
- Participation in the activities of the HISDEMAB programme (internal meetings, colloquia, seminars, workshops, and conferences)
- Further administrative tasks in the HISDEMAB programme
- Writing of a doctoral dissertation
- Contribution of a chapter to a collective book related to the HISDEMAB programme

Requirements:

- Above-average masters degree in history or a related discipline (Islamic studies, political science, sociology, anthropology or a neighbouring discipline) with a focus on the modern history of the Middle East and North-Africa
- Excellent command of the Arabic, English/French, and German languages (for non-German speaking applicants: certificate of sufficient German language skills or a strategy to improve the language skills)
- Good communication and team skills
- Capacity to work autonomously and in a structured way

What we offer:

The Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) is the only research institution in Germany that deals with the Middle East, Africa, Eurasia, South and Southeast Asia in an interdisciplinary and historically comparative perspective. The focus of research is the interaction of predominantly Muslim societies and their relationships with non-Muslim neighbouring regions. We offer a vibrant and interdisciplinary work environment in Berlin as well as a motivating and a friendly working atmosphere.

Application:

Please combine all of your application materials (CV, certificates, cover letter with a research sketch of 4 pages maximum and a working plan for 36 months, and your masters or final thesis as a work sample) into a single PDF file and send it with the identification reference ZMO-HISDEMAB to the Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Dr. Silke Nagel (zmo@zmo.de), by **1 July 2020**.

We particularly welcome applications from women. Disabled applicants with equal qualification and aptitude will be given preferential consideration.

For further inquiries about the application, the research project, your tasks and the work structure please contact Principal Investigator PD Dr. habil. Nora Lafi: Nora.Lafi@zmo.de