

Within the Research Training Group 2686 "Contradiction Studies - Constellations, Heuristics and Concepts of the Contradictory", funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), a position is available at the University of Bremen – subject to approval – as

Postdoctoral Researcher (f/m/d)
salary group 13 TV-L / 100%

The position is to commence on **June 1, 2022** with a duration of up to four years.

The employment is fixed-term and governed by the Act of Academic Fixed-Term Contract, §2 (1) (Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz – WissZeitVG). Therefore, candidates may only be considered for appointment if they still have the respective qualification periods available in accordance with § 2 (1) WissZeitVG.

The newly established interdisciplinary research training group comprises Empirical Cultural Studies, Social and Cultural Anthropology, German and Interdisciplinary Linguistics, Literary and Cultural Romance studies, North American and Postcolonial Literary and Cultural Studies, Medieval and Early Modern German Literary Studies, Jurisprudence, Human Geography, Political Science, East European History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies.

We invite applications related to one or more of the above subjects.

About the Research Training Group

The Research Training Group (RTG) "Contradiction Studies" brings a variety of academic fields into dialogue. We seek to develop new interdisciplinary perspectives that investigate how people, groups, institutions and states negotiate concepts of contradiction and demands for non-contradiction, and how they might develop ways of dealing with the contradictions of coexistence.

The underlying assumption of the RTG is that the demand to resolve contradictions is often in tension with our everyday lives, in which the contradictory remains unresolved. The RTG asks how and under which conditions concepts of the contradictory emerge, when and where they become visible as such and sometimes are even tolerated, and when they are made invisible and/or considered unacceptable. In this context, it is also important to sound out where the imperative of freedom from contradiction has its limits.

Constellations of contradiction, avoidance of contradiction, contradictoriness and practices of contradiction are explored systematically from the perspectives of the humanities, social sciences and law, also in confrontation with postcolonially oriented discussions on the cosmopolitization of knowledge production.

We offer our fellows an intellectually stimulating place for further academic qualification and mutual exchange. We understand ourselves as a laboratory of cooperative forms of academic work with flat hierarchies. In addition to the principles of good scientific practice and an ethos of responsible research, the RTG also supports the compatibility of research, family and care, as well as diversity of knowledge and perspectives on the basis of respect, mutual recognition and cooperation. Fostering diversity and international exchange are core concerns of the RTG.

As postdoctoral fellow of the RTG, you are invited to participate in any module and event in our qualification program that might be of use to you. For more information, please visit <https://contradictionstudies.uni-bremen.de/en/the-research-training-group/qualification-program/>. At U Bremen, you can furthermore take advantage of a wide range of training opportunities, individual coaching and workshops specifically designed for postdoctoral researchers.

The RTG provides travel funds for (international) workshops and conferences as well as for individual research stays. As a postdoctoral fellow, you can invite international scholars to the RTG to consult with them, organize workshops, or develop joint publication projects. Funds for native-language editing as well as open access grants are available upon application.

For further information on our research program and on the researchers involved in the Research Training Group who are available as mentors to you, please visit

<https://contradictionstudies.uni-bremen.de/en/the-research-training-group/research-program/>
and
<https://contradictionstudies.uni-bremen.de/en/faculty-en/>

The Research Training Group is part of the interdisciplinary research platform "Worlds of Contradiction" (WoC) at the University of Bremen: <https://www.woc.uni-bremen.de>

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for a dynamic researcher with a research project in one of the disciplines participating in the Research Training Group (RTG). The RTG is open for diverse theoretical and methodological approaches. The researcher should systematically contribute to the development of the profile of Contradiction Studies and make a central contribution to the formation of theory in CS. For example, a historical-genealogical project on contradiction or one with a typological-classificatory dimension would be of interest. Contradiction is to be understood broadly, ranging from relational concepts of contradiction via mutual forms of exclusion to questions of tolerance of ambiguity or to field-bound practices of contradicting.

An outstanding doctorate and an excellent curriculum vitae commensurate with academic age are required. We expect well above average developed methodological and theoretical skills and a strong ability and enthusiasm for developing disciplinary methodologies, knowledge, and research designs in interdisciplinary exchange. The potential for high-level publications in international peer-reviewed journals must be evident in the application, at best through relevant preliminary work. The letter of application should provide information about the motivation to position one's own research project in a structured doctoral program in an interdisciplinary way and to develop and work on interdisciplinary issues of Contradiction Studies together with all members of the RTG..

In your letter of motivation and in the outline of your research project, we invite you to consider one or more of the following questions:

- How do people live with contradictions?
- In which social arenas and with what consequences are contradictions bound to the imperative of their resolution?
- How can we describe practices of negotiating diversity and incompatibilities that take a critical stance toward the principle of non-contradiction?
- How can contradiction be questioned or decentered as part of the foundations of Western/Northern knowledge production?
- In which academic discipline/field are you and your research project situated, and in what ways are interdisciplinary perspectives relevant to your own research?

Tasks of the research assistant include

- Completion of a research project within the thematic scope of the RTG ("Habilitation", second book project, or equivalent; the position's aim is for its holder to qualify for a full professorship, a Heisenberg fellowship or other prestigious grants)
- Active participation in and development of the central research colloquium at the RTG
- Contribution to developing the systematic profile of Contradiction Studies
- Co-editing of RTG publications

- Participation in the preparation and conducting of (plenary) events of the RTG
- Optional / desired: teaching a course of your own design

Requirements

- Doctorate with above-average grades (at least "magna cum laude" or equivalent) in one of the subjects of the RTG or in a related subject
- Interested in conducting research with interdisciplinary methods
- High communicative and social competence
- Interested in and able to work in research groups and teams
- Excellent command of English and, in the case of international applicants with no prior knowledge of German, the willingness to learn German at least to the level of everyday use within the first year of the fellowship

To apply, please submit the following documents combined into one PDF-file

Please note that all application documents must be submitted in either German or English. Any document submitted in a third language must be accompanied by a translation into either German or English

- Application form (available to download here: <https://contradictionstudies.uni-bremen.de/en/application/>)
- A-Levels or equivalent (Matura, Abitur, High School Diploma...)
- Copy of your Master's degree certificate in a subject relevant to the RTG, including complete transcripts
- Copy of your Doctoral degree certificate in a subject relevant to the RTG, including complete transcripts
- 10-page exposé of your research project plus a research bibliography (max. 3 pages)
- Sample of your work (e.g. a chapter from your dissertation or a publication, max. 20 pages)
- Curriculum vitae including a list of publications, list of courses taught and lectures held, list of funding generated raised if applicable; please do *not* include a photograph
- Three-page letter of motivation explaining how your research interest fits into the thematic framework of the RTG and how you intend to contribute to the RTG; if applicable, please include information on specific methodological competencies and further knowledge and experience relevant to the RTG
- Two letters of recommendation from university teachers
- Optional: any further degrees or certificates indicating particular qualification for the RTG

Letters of recommendation can either be submitted as part of your application, or sent directly to us by your university teachers within the application deadline.

Please send your application with the **reference number A343/21** by **February 15th, 2022 (date of receipt)**, preferably in electronic form (PDF), by e-mail to the spokespersons of the Research Training Group, Prof. Dr. Michi Knecht and Prof. Dr. Ingo H. Warnke.

- E-mail address for applications and letters of recommendation: grk2686@uni-bremen.de
- Please name the PDF containing your application documents as follows:
Postdoc_GRK2686_[insert your last name here].

Alternatively, you can send your application by mail to the following address: University of Bremen, FB9, Graduiertenkolleg Contradiction Studies, Attn: Prof. Dr. Michi Knecht/Prof. Dr. Ingo H. Warnke, Postfach 33 04 40, 28334 Bremen, Germany.

Please refrain from mailing any original documents / please only send copies of diplomas etc. Note that all application material received will be destroyed after the selection process.

Interviews will take place via Zoom, most likely starting in the **second half of February 2022**, and are subject to strict data protection requirements.

If you have **questions** about the RTG or the application process, please take a look at our website and especially at the FAQ for applicants:

<https://contradictionstudies.uni-bremen.de/en/application/faq-en/>. If you do not find an answer to your question there, please feel free to contact Dr. Birte Löschenkohl: loeschen@uni-bremen.de.

The University of Bremen strives to increase the number of women in the academy and strongly encourages applications from female candidates. The University of Bremen has received awards for its diversity strategy and is certified as a family-friendly university. We expressly welcome applications from candidates with a migration background, international applications especially from the Global South, and applications from candidates belonging to any social groups currently underrepresented at the university. Disabled candidates will be given preference if their professional and personal qualifications are essentially equal.

The University of Bremen is a leading European research university and an inspirational place of education – it is diverse, socially responsible, cooperative, and creative. Its international nature is characterized by close cooperation with universities and research institutions worldwide, as well as by its role in shaping one of the first expressly European universities. Around 23,000 people learn, teach, research and work on our international campus.