



# Universität Potsdam

## Job Announcement

Young, modern, and research oriented... the University of Potsdam has firmly established itself within the scientific landscape since its founding in 1991. Nationally and internationally renowned scientists teach and perform research here at Brandenburg's largest university. The University of Potsdam is successful in acquiring third-party funds, delivers outstanding performance in technology and knowledge transfer, and has a very service-oriented administration. With about 20,000 students studying at three campuses – Am Neuen Palais, Griebnitzsee and Golm – the University of Potsdam is a prominent economic factor and engine of development for the region. The University of Potsdam has a total of about 2,750 faculty and staff members and is located in one of Germany's most scenic areas.

The **University of Potsdam, Faculty of Arts, Department of Jewish Studies and Religious Studies** is seeking to fill two positions at the **Selma Stern Center for Jewish Studies in Berlin-Brandenburg** and the **research area "Sephardic Perspectives"** by 01 September 2018

### **Academic Staff Member (Doctoral Candidate Positions)**

**"Jewish-Jewish Encounters  
in the Ottoman Empire / Mediterranean (15th - 19th Centuries)"  
Requisition No.: 213/2018**

The positions are for 20 hours of work per week (50 %) and they are limited until 31 March 2022 in accordance with Section 2 subsection 1 of the Academic Fixed-Term Contract Law (WissZeitVG). The salary is determined by the collective bargaining agreement for public employees in Germany (TV-L 13).

The doctoral candidates will be enrolled at the University of Potsdam. In terms of content, the positions fall under the Department of Jewish Studies and Religious Studies (Prof. Dr. Sina Rauschenbach) and are housed at the Selma Stern Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg. They are financed by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). Requirements include a scholarly university degree, completed no longer than two years ago, preferably in History, Jewish Studies, Philosophy or Religion; excellent knowledge of English and basic knowledge of German, with a willingness to improve your German skills; and knowledge of at least one additional language that is relevant to the research field (Hebrew, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Ottoman Turkish, etc.).

Applications must include a proposal for a dissertation project within the research subject (see below). Doctoral work will be supervised by Prof. Dr. Sina Rauschenbach in the context of a research team led by Dr. Susanne Härtel. In addition to work on the candidates'

own projects and collaborative work with the research team, we expect active participation in and contribution to events at the Selma Stern Center.

*The “Jewish-Jewish Encounters in the Ottoman Empire / Mediterranean (15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries)” research team focuses on questions related to the constitution and transformation of Jewish communities in early modern times. Expulsions and migrations led to the breakup of former territorial units of Jewish life and the dispersal of entire communities. The Iberian expulsions and forced conversions are of particular significance because they resulted in a broad Sephardic diaspora that assumed various forms in Mediterranean regions in general and under Ottoman domination in particular. Postdoc and doctoral students will examine how discrete Jewish groups or individuals resettled in new regions, asserted their position – often in conflict with an “older” local (non-Sephardic) Jewish population – and acted within the broader Sephardic diaspora. The research team offers an institutional space for the realization of personal research projects and for establishing connections to other projects in the “Sephardic Perspectives” research field.*

*Doctoral projects should focus primarily on the early modern period. A geographic concentration on the territory of the Ottoman Empire is desirable, but project proposals on other Mediterranean regions and their Sephardic diaspora are also welcome. Various methodological approaches are possible, but dissertation projects should have a clear historical orientation.*

*Possible dissertation topics could be:*

- *The history of individual groups (for example, the Conversos in the Ottoman Empire; the Francos between Italy and the Ottoman Empire; the Karaites in the Ottoman Empire) and their relationship to other Jewish groups*
- *The history of Sephardic migrations in selected regions and encounters with different Jewish communities*
- *The history of Jewish networks and cooperation in the Ottoman Empire and the Mediterranean*
- *Migration, the transformation of knowledge, and the formation of tradition in Sephardic Judaism in the Ottoman Empire or the Mediterranean*
- *Microhistories of Jewish-Jewish encounters in the Ottoman Empire or the Mediterranean*

Applications must include the following documents: a detailed curriculum vitae; copies of university records; a description of how the candidate plans to develop his/her own research project within the junior research group (research question and objectives; the state of current research; preparatory work that the candidate has already performed, if applicable; methodological approach; work plan), 5-8 pages maximum, written in German or English; a writing sample of a maximum of 20 pages from the candidate's bachelor's or master's thesis; and the names of two references.

The application deadline is **May 2, 2018**. Applications must be submitted, in paper and electronically (in a single file!), to: University of Potsdam, Department of Jewish Studies and Religious Studies, Frau Wenke Papenhagen, Am Neuen Palais 10, 14469 Potsdam, email: [wenke.papenhagen@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:wenke.papenhagen@uni-potsdam.de), web: [www.zentrum-juedische-studien.de](http://www.zentrum-juedische-studien.de)

For more information please contact: Dr. Susanne Härtel, [s.haertel@selma-stern-zentrum.de](mailto:s.haertel@selma-stern-zentrum.de)

For the return of application documents, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Potsdam, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018