

Call for Applications: 2 x PhD Positions

The Institute of Philosophy I at the Ruhr University Bochum seeks applications for **2 PhD positions – one in philosophy of biology, one in history of biology**. They will be part of the Emmy Noether-research group “The Return of the Organism in the Biosciences: Theoretical, Historical, and Social Dimensions”, financed by the DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft). Doctoral students will conduct their research under the supervision of the project’s PI, Dr. Jan Baedke. Project description: <https://bit.ly/32bKSnH>

- **Duration: 3 years**
- **Planned starting date: 1st January 2020**
- **Deadline for the application: 15th October 2019**

YOUR PROFILE

For both positions a M.A. in philosophy or history (or another relevant discipline) is required. The candidates should have a strong interest in integrating historical and philosophical studies of science in their work. Although no prior knowledge of history and philosophy of biology is required, such knowledge will be considered as a plus. For more specific requirements:

- (1) **For the PhD position in philosophy of biology:** Expertise (or some knowledge) in philosophy of science is required. Mastering the German language is not required.
- (2) **For the PhD position in history of biology:** Expertise (or some knowledge) in history of science is required. Additional (though not necessary) skills are: Being able to read German, having experience in archival research and/or computational methods of text mining and analysis.

YOUR TASKS

The successful candidates are expected to actively contribute to the above project. The PhD projects should

- (1) address relevant conceptual, epistemological, and/or methodological issues on (or related to) the notions of organism, biological individuality, environment, or organism-environment relationship (PhD 1); or
- (2) study historical debates and/or central positions, figures or publications in early 20th century holistic biology, organicism, and/or dialectical materialism, with a focus on (or related to) the notions of organism, biological individuality, environment, or organism-environment relationship. This work should be supported by archival research and/or digital humanities approaches (PhD 2).

Each candidate’s work should lead to a PhD dissertation within 3 years. The candidates will be encouraged to present his or her research at international workshops or conferences, and at meetings of the research group, which will be composed of two PhD-students, one Post-Doc, two Mercator Fellows (who will visit the research group), and the PI. Research collaborations with other team members and fellows, as well as with members of and the Chair of History and Philosophy of Science are encouraged. Candidates will enjoy the groups’ administrative facilities and financial support.

APPLICATIONS

Applications in German or English should include:

- A cover letter that addresses one’s interest in and suitability for PhD position (1) or (2),
- A brief description (maximum: 2 pages) of research topics, questions or ideas of interest that fit to the group’s profile.
- A full CV (including the topic of your MA dissertation)
- A copy of the relevant degree/certificate (and the official list containing your MA grades)
- A representative writing sample (such as an extract from your MA dissertation, a paper that you have written, etc.)
- A letter of recommendation

WE OFFER

- A diverse and fair working environment
- Support in reconciling work and family life
- Extensive advanced training opportunities
- Occupational health management offers

The Ruhr University Bochum (RUB) is located in the dynamic metropolitan region of the Ruhrgebiet. With its 20 faculties it houses over 43,000 students and a broad range of disciplines on one compact campus. It offers rich opportunities for collaboration across different disciplines. The 'Institut für Philosophie' (I and II) is the largest Philosophy Department in Germany, which provides an ideal environment for doctoral students to both broaden and deepen their expertise and personal skills to further their career. In addition, the RUB Research School provides various individual training opportunities. For more information on the Chair of History and Philosophy of Science, please visit: www.rub.de/philosophy/wtundwg/index.html.de

The Ruhr University Bochum is committed to equal opportunities and diversity. For the sake of internationalization and gender-equality, applicants from abroad as well as non-male candidates are especially encouraged to apply. Disabled persons with the same professional and personal qualifications will be given preference.

Both PhD positions are available from 1st January 2020. They are limited to 3 years. If the applicant meets the relevant general requirements and personal qualifications, the salary is 65% of occupation group 13 TV-L of the pay scale for the German public sector.

Please submit your documents electronically to jan.baedke@rub.de under the subject line "Application Emmy Noether PhD" by 15th October 2019. Short-listed candidates will be interviewed (if necessary, via Skype).

For any further inquiries please contact jan.baedke@rub.de.