

At the University of Bremen, the Research Training Group 2686
funded by the German Research Foundation
»Contradiction Studies—Constellations, Heuristics and Concepts of the Contradictory«
is offering positions as

Associated Doctoral Candidates (f/m/d)

to be filled as of June 1, 2025 for a maximum term of 3 years with the objective of completing a PhD.

Nota bene / Please note: Applications are only accepted if external funding for your doctoral project has already been secured — for example, through a scholarship or employment as a research assistant.

The interdisciplinary Research Training Group brings together *empirical cultural studies, social and cultural anthropology, interdisciplinary linguistics, literary studies (Romance studies, North American and postcolonial literatures, German medieval and early modern studies), law, human geography, political science, Eastern European history, philosophy, and religious studies.*

We invite applications relating to one or more of the research areas listed.

About the Research Training Group

The Research Training Group »Contradiction Studies« examines the ways in which individuals, groups, institutions, and states navigate the concept of contradiction, particularly in relation to the prevalent demand for consistency (freedom from contradiction). It aims to develop novel forms and procedures for addressing the inherent contradictions of living together.

The starting point of the research group is the assumption that the common claim that contradictions should be resolved is often in conflict with the reality of everyday life which often involves the coexistence of unresolved contradictions. The Research Training Group aims to understand how and under what conditions contradictions emerge, when and where they become visible, and when they are tolerated, made invisible, or considered unacceptable. In this context, it is also important to explore the limits of the principle of non-contradiction.

In the research group, constellations of contradiction, avoidance of contradiction, inconsistencies, and practices of contradiction are systematically researched and researched in team-oriented ways from the perspectives of the humanities, social sciences, and legal studies, also in the context of postcolonial discussions on the cosmopolitanization of knowledge production.

We offer an intellectually challenging place for academic qualification and exchange to our fellows (f/m/d). We see ourselves as a laboratory for collaborative forms of academic work with a flat hierarchy. In addition to the principles of good scientific practice and an ethos of responsible research, the Research Training Group also supports the compatibility of academic work, family and care, as well as diversity of knowledge and perspectives on the basis of respect, mutual recognition, and cooperation. A core concern of the Research Training Group is to promote diversity and internationality.

The Research Training Group is part of the interdisciplinary academic institution »Worlds of Contradiction« (WOC) at the University of Bremen: <https://www.woc.uni-bremen.de/>.

Further information on the research and qualification program, as well as on the scholars involved in the Research Training Group who are available as supervisors for qualification theses, can be found on our website at:

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

You can find the readable version of the funding application (in German only) at the following link:

- https://media.suub.uni-bremen.de/bitstream/elib/8014/3/GRK2686_ContradictionStudies_WorkingPaper_1-DE_SINGLE_PDFA.pdf

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for excellently qualified graduates (f/m/d) with doctoral projects that are related to one of the research areas integrated in the Research Training Group, and that are interdisciplinary in the context of Contradiction Studies. Empirical, theoretical, or mixed projects are possible; the RTG is open to new approaches in theory and methods.

Please use one or more of the following questions as a guide for your letter of motivation and for the outline of your dissertation project:

- How do people live with contradictions?
- In which social fields and with which effects are contradictions tied to the assumption of the necessity of their resolution? How can forms of negotiating diversity and incompatibilities be described that critically question the prevailing principle of avoiding contradictions?
- How can contradiction be questioned or decentered as part of the foundations of Western/Northern knowledge production?
- Where do you see yourself and your project in disciplinary terms, and what relevance do interdisciplinary perspectives have in your research?

Research Training Program

If you have successfully passed the selection process, you will take part in the structured doctoral program of the RTG, which will require your presence on site. The qualification concept aims to promote early academic independence, interdisciplinary exchange, and interdisciplinary cooperation; intensive professional support for your doctoral project is a matter of course. Supervisory teams are possible, peer mentoring is supported, and a modular training program is being implemented.

To support your doctoral project, the following funding opportunities may be granted upon request and subject to the availability of funds:

- Funding for international research stays
- Funding for conference participation and publications
- Independent planning and implementation of academic events

As associated doctoral researchers, you

- work on a dissertation that is thematically related to the RTG,
- Participation in the modularized doctoral program of the RTG,
- participate in the modularized doctoral program with the same rights and responsibilities as other doctoral researchers,
- actively contribute to shaping the central research colloquium at the RTG,
- are eligible to apply for and use available funding on an equal footing with other doctoral researchers of the group, in accordance with the general funding regulations (e.g., for travel, conferences, workshops, research stays, and publications).

Recruitment requirements

- Above-average academic degree (MA degree/university diploma) in one of the research areas involved in the RTG or a related field (certificate must be available at the time of recruitment)
- Strong interest in interdisciplinary work
- Submission of a high-quality exposé of the doctoral project
- High communicative and social skills
- English and/or German language skills at level B2 or higher
- Proof of external funding or employment as a research fellow at least until November 30, 2026

General information

Open to unconventional approaches in research and teaching, the University of Bremen has retained its character as a place of short distances for people and ideas since its founding in 1971. With a broad range of subjects, we combine exceptional performance and innovative potential. As an ambitious research university, we stand for research-based learning approaches and a pronounced interdisciplinary orientation. We actively pursue international scientific cooperation in a spirit of global partnership.

Today, around 23,000 people learn, teach, research, and work on our international campus. In research and teaching, administration and operations, we are firmly committed to the goals of sustainability, climate justice, and climate neutrality. Our Bremen spirit is expressed in the courage to dare new things, in supportive cooperation, in respect and appreciation for each other. With our study and research profile and as part of the European YUFE network, we assume social responsibility in the region, in Europe, and in the world.

The university is family-friendly, diverse and sees itself as an international university. We therefore welcome all applicants regardless of gender, nationality, ethnic and social origin, religion/belief, disability, age, sexual orientation and identity.

As the University of Bremen intends to increase the proportion of female employees in science, women are particularly encouraged to apply. Applicants with disabilities will be given priority if their professional and personal qualifications are essentially the same.

Cover Letter and application documents

All application documents must be submitted in German or English. For documents submitted in a third language, please also enclose a translation into German or English.

IMPORTANT: Please make sure to **indicate at the beginning of your cover letter which of the research areas represented in the Research Training Group your project is associated with.**

Please submit the following with your letter of application as a single PDF file:

- School Leaving Certificate
- Proof of an above-average university degree in a subject relevant to the RTG with complete transcripts showing the final grade
- Two- to three-page letter of motivation explaining how your research interest fits into the thematic framework of the Research Training Group and how you want to get involved in the research training group. If applicable, please include details of specific methodological skills and other theoretical knowledge and experience relevant to the research training group
- Two-page curriculum vitae in tabular form with detailed description of the academic career, *without* photo
- Short exposé on the planned doctoral project (up to five pages), including a short research bibliography to position it in the current scientific discussion
- Two letters of recommendation from university professors
- Proof of external funding or employment as a research fellow at least until November 30, 2026
- Optional: further certificates for degrees and certificates that result in a special qualification for the RTG

Letters of recommendation can either be submitted as part of your application documents or sent to us directly by the relevant university teacher by the application deadline.

Please submit your application by May 1, 2025 (date of receipt, Berlin time) at the latest, quoting the reference *Associated Docs*, by unencrypted electronic mail to the following e-mail address: grk2686application@uni-bremen.de.

Please name the PDF with your application documents according to the following pattern: ***Application_GRK2686_Associated_Docs_2025_[your last name].pdf***.

Interviews

The interviews with potential candidates are expected to take place online no later than May 15 or 16, 2025 provided that the data protection protocols are duly observed.

Any costs for the application procedure cannot be reimbursed.

If you have any questions, please take a look at our website, in particular at the FAQ for applicants, at <https://contradictionstudies.uni-bremen.de/en/application/faq-en/>. If you cannot find an answer to your question there, please contact Dr. Christian Bär via the above-mentioned e-mail.