

Research Position on the topic of “The Baltic States and the Transnational Approach of Minority Activists to Non-territorial Autonomy, 1918–1940”

The European Research Council funded research project „Non-Territorial Autonomy as Minority Protection in Europe: An Intellectual and Political History of a Travelling Idea, 1850–2000“ (NTAutonomy) invites prospective candidates to become part of a team of five researchers.

The Project in its Entirety

NTAutonomy explores the history of non-territorial autonomy, which was a means of granting cultural rights to a national group as a corporate body within a state. The project investigates this form of national self-rule as both an intellectual concept and an applied policy across Europe. We will examine the origins of this idea in both parts of the Habsburg Empire and conduct research on how this concept travelled to the interwar period. Starting from the assumption that non-territorial autonomy was not specific to a particular political current, we will analyse how this concept translated into the early Soviet Union, the socialist Ukrainian People’s Republic, the liberal democracies in the Baltic States, and the far-right Sudeten German Party in Czechoslovakia. Finally, we want to trace non-territorial autonomy elements in the policies of European minority protection institutions until the present day. For more information on the project, please refer to the principal investigator’s website:

<http://homepage.univie.ac.at/boerries.kuzmany/en/research/national-personal-autonomy/>

Job Description

You will be in charge of the project’s work package that analyses the liberal approach to non-territorial autonomy in the Baltic States and the legal regulations implemented during the interwar period. While you can focus on one, or preferably two countries, you should still keep all three states and all minorities (Jews, Russians, Germans, etc.) within perspective. You should collect material on the intellectual and practical genesis of non-territorial autonomy in this region, the scope of national self-rule implemented, the institutions of national self-rule, the question of ethnic affiliation and national registers, as well as general state-minority relations. Furthermore, you should analyse political and personal networks of Baltic minority activists with activists from other parts of Europe, in particular in the framework of the Congress of European Nationalities.

You are expected to complete a PhD thesis on a topic in the wider field of your work package and publish preliminary results. You will furthermore participate in the bi-monthly meetings of the project team, discuss your findings, make them accessible in our project’s database, help to organise two conferences, and assist in the maintenance of the project website.

We Offer

We offer a two-year contract, renewable for one or two years after an interim evaluation. The gross salary is approx. 29,000 € per year, corresponding to 75% (30 h) of a full position. The total duration of employment and the extent of part-time employment is negotiable. Starting date is 1 April 2018.

You will have a fully equipped workspace at the Institute for Modern and Contemporary Historical Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna. Funding for research missions and participation to international conferences will also be provided.

You will be part of a research team of five scholars in an intellectually ambitious and challenging project funded by the European Union in one of Europe's most pleasant cities.

The Austrian Academy of Sciences is an equal opportunity employer.

Your Qualifications

You must hold an MA degree (or equivalent), ideally with a scholarly background in nationalism studies and/or the history of nationalism in the Baltic States. You should demonstrate an interest in minority issues, legal history and comparative research questions. You need very good language skills in one, or preferably two of the state languages (Estonian, Latvian, or Lithuanian) and in at least one minority language of these countries (German, Russian, Polish, Yiddish, etc.); English and German reading knowledge is expected. Finally, you should be familiar with reference management software like e.g. EndNote.

How to Apply

You can apply in German or English before 4 December 2017. Please send the following documents as a single PDF document (entitled: SURNAME, NTAutonomy, application 2017, Baltics) to boerries.kuzmany@oeaw.ac.at

- 1) Short motivation letter.
- 2) Curriculum vitae, including a list of publications (if applicable).
- 3) Name, email and telephone number of at least two referees (no recommendation letters).
- 4) An exposé of your planned PhD thesis. Please outline how your thesis relates to the objectives of NTAutonomy in general and to your specific work package on the Baltic States in particular (approx. 1000 words, excluding bibliography).
- 5) A writing sample (e.g. an article, or a significant chapter of your MA thesis). It is not necessary that it has already been accepted for publication.
- 6) A certificate of your MA degree.

You will be informed of the outcome of the selection process by the end of January 2018. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interviews in February 2018.

For any further information, do not hesitate to contact the project's principal investigator:

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