Research Position on the topic of “Non-territorial Autonomy in Revolutionary Russia and the Early Soviet Union“

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 explicit and implicit appropriation of non-territorial autonomy in revolutionary Russia. You should collect material on non-territorial autonomy provisions in Siberia and the Far East during the revolutionary period. You should collect material on the functioning of the People’s Commissariat for Nationalities Affairs and the various national sections of the Communist Party in general, and select one or two minority groups (e.g. Tatars, Germans, Jews, peoples of the north, etc.) to illustrate your research. Finally, you should collect material published in Bolshevik journals on ideological and pragmatic approaches to Soviet nationality policies and potential references to general discussions on non-territorial autonomy.

You are expected to publish your findings in leading peer-reviewed journals and produce a draft of a second book / habilitation on a topic in the wider field of your work package. You will furthermore participate in the bi-monthly meetings of the project team, discuss your findings, make them accessible in our project’s database, assist in the maintenance of the project website, help to organise one conference and participate in editing the conference proceedings.

We Offer

We offer a two-year contract, renewable for another year after an interim evaluation. The gross salary is approx. 33,000 € per year, corresponding to 65% (26 hours) 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 a PhD degree or be close to completion, ideally with a scholarly background in nationalism studies and/or the Soviet history. You should demonstrate an interest in the history of nationalism, minority issues, legal history and comparative research questions. You need excellent language skills in Russian, a very good knowledge of English and one, or preferably two minority languages of the Soviet Union (Tatar, Polish, Yiddish, etc.); being able to communicate in German would be an asset but is not a requirement. You should like working in teams and 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, Soviet Union) to boerries.kuzmany@oeaw.ac.at

1) Short motivation letter.

2) Curriculum vitae, including a list of publications.

3) Name, email and telephone number of at least two referees (no recommendation letters).

4) An exposé of your planned book project. Please outline how your project relates to the objectives of NTAutonomy in general and to your specific work package on the Soviet Union in particular (approx. 1000 words, excluding bibliography).

5) A writing sample (e.g. an article, or a significant chapter of your PhD thesis). It is not necessary that it has already been accepted for publication.

6) A certificate of your PhD 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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