

## **Job advertisement**

Within the Research Training Group 2304 “Byzantium and the Euro-Mediterranean Cultures of War. Exchange, Differentiation and Reception”, which is financed by the DFG (German Research Foundation), there is at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz

### **1 position for doctoral research associate (pay scale TV-L 13, 2/3 FTE) in the field Ottoman Studies / Turkish Studies or History of Islam**

to be filled by **1<sup>st</sup> January 2024** for a contract period of three years.

Participating in this Research Training Group are the disciplines of Ancient History, Ancient Church History/Theology, Byzantine Studies, Medieval History, Eastern European History, Classical Archaeology, Christian Archaeology and Byzantine Art History, Early and Prehistorical Archaeology (with a focus on Medieval Archaeology) and Musicology as well as, in the second funding phase, also the History of Islam.

The goal of the Research Training Group is to examine the Euro-Mediterranean Cultures of War from a transcultural perspective, from the Roman Imperial Period to the Early Modern Period. With cultures of war are understood to be the forms and practices of war as well as the norms, interpretations, attributions of meaning and reflections referring to war. A detailed description of the research programme, the research fields and topics can be found on the homepage [<https://grk-byzanz-wars.uni-mainz.de/research-fields/>]. The dissertation project to be proposed must be assigned to at least one of the above-mentioned subject areas as well as to a participating subject.

In this research context, the task of a doctoral project within the framework of Ottoman studies/Turkish Studies or History of Islam is to examine aspects of Ottoman or Islamic cultures of war in the Eastern Mediterranean in the Middle Ages or early modern period, taking into account transcultural interconnections with Byzantium and including the reception, effects and interpretations of Byzantine discourses.

Applicants are free to submit their own topic proposals but can also further develop or use as their orientation the following possible perspectives for dissertation topics:

Topics of overarching relevance such as practices of in interaction in the context of war or narratives of war can, for example, be examined more closely looking at tensions between Byzantium and the Islamic world:

- using the example of the interpretation of the conquest of Constantinople in Mamluk historiography, by Ibn Taghrībirdī (1411-1470) and other authors;

- in the context of an object biography of the Prophet's standard (sancak-ı şerif), which takes up Ottoman but also early Islamic references, practices, ritual embeddedness and narratives;
- in an analysis of Byzantine knowledge in Ottoman treatises on the subject of statecraft and warfare (nasihātnāme), with a focus on knowledge transfer and translation processes.

Further information on these proposed topics can be found at [<https://grk-byzanz-kriegskulturen.uni-mainz.de/geschichte-des-islams-im-oestlichen-mittelmeerraum/>].

Upon acceptance the graduate students are expected to participate in a structured doctoral program at the JGU Mainz, for which residence in Mainz is required. The Research Training Group offers intensive specialized and interdisciplinary exchange, cross-disciplinary doctoral supervision by two professors from amongst the participating scholars, praxis-oriented courses directed at public engagement (including through museums), a comprehensive range of key qualifications (e.g. from the sphere of Digital Humanities) and diverse opportunities for international networking.

Applicants must have an above-average university degree (Magister, M.A. or equivalent) in Ottoman Studies, Turkish Studies, History of Islam or a related subject, proficiency in Turkish, Ottoman Turkish and/or Arabic, and a willingness to engage in interdisciplinary work.

The following application materials are to be submitted electronically in a single .pdf (in German or English):

- A letter of application (one page)
- An outline of the planned dissertation project (two pages)
- A curriculum vitae with list of publications (if applicable), degree diplomas, certificates of scholarly activities
- Master's Thesis (or equivalent)

The Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz is committed to increase the proportion of women in academia and therefore especially welcomes applications from female researchers. Kindly also refer to any disability status in the application.

For subject-related questions please direct your queries to the corresponding specialists of the Research Training Group [<https://grk-byzanz-wars.uni-mainz.de/traeger/>], other questions to the Spokesperson.

The application deadline ends by 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

The application materials along with two letters of recommendation from university-level instructors, who should submit their letters separately, are to be addressed to the Spokesperson of the Research Training Group, Prof. Dr. Johannes Pahlitzsch, (address: [grk2304@uni-mainz.de](mailto:grk2304@uni-mainz.de); subject-line: grk2304\_Last Name).

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