



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP FOR MASTERS STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE IN THE RESEARCH UNIT “THE PRODUCTION AND REPRODUCTION OF SOCIAL INEQUALITIES” (SPEAKER: PROF. DR. MICHAELA PELICAN)

The research unit “The Production and Reproduction of Social Inequalities”, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, herewith advertises a research scholarship in the project “Communication during and after COVID-19: (re)producing social inequalities and/or opportunities among African migrants in the United Arab Emirates and China”.

Eligibility and Requirements

The scholarship is directed to Master Students in Social and Cultural Anthropology, Culture and Environment in Africa, or related disciplines, enrolled with the University of Cologne. The funding period is 2 months and will cover research-related expenses, including (inter-)national travel, accommodation, and living allowance.

The recipient of the research scholarship will be integrated in the activities of the research project and its members. She/he is expected to participate in regular project meetings (beyond the period of the research scholarship), conduct anthropological fieldwork, and write an MA thesis that integrates the research findings. She/he will be supervised by Prof. Dr. Michaela Pelican and Dr. Jonathan Ngeh (Department of Anthropology/GSSC).

Project Description: “Communication during and after COVID-19”

We invite Master students to formulate a research idea that matches the research questions of the project “Communication during and after COVID-19: (re)producing social inequalities and/or opportunities among African migrants in the United Arab Emirates and China”. We particularly welcome ideas for research to be conducted in the United Arab Emirates. But we are also open to research conducted in Germany, given that the idea matches the scope of our project.

The key questions in this project are: How does the COVID-19 pandemic affect the production and reproduction of social inequalities as well as the emergence of opportunities for especially vulnerable migrants? And which role does communication play in this context? These questions will be studied in relation to the experiences of African migrants in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). In addition to showing the pandemic’s differential socio-economic impact on different populations in society, the findings will reveal how solidarity at the grassroots level underlies successful mitigation of this crisis in at-risk-communities.

The project not only combines anthropological and sociological knowledge, but also incorporates participatory and collaborative research methods that are more hands-off for the researchers and hands-on for the research collaborators who are mostly Africans but include some nationals or non-African migrants whose everyday sociability brings them into contact with African migrants in the UAE. Moreover, while relying on online tools to communicate, we set up and encourage the use of online discussion groups that allow project participants to communicate with one another without the limits of face-to-face meetings. Collaborative research is preferred for its deliberate goal to

create equity in the research relationship and in view of limitations on travel to contain the spread of COVID-19.

More information on the research unit “The Production and Reproduction of Social Inequalities” and the project “Communication during and after COVID-19” can be found here: <https://socialinequalities.uni-koeln.de/>

Application Documents

- CV (English)
- Research exposé (English, 1-2 pages)
- Motivation letter (English, 1 page)

For further information regarding the project “Communication during and after COVID-19” or the application process please contact: Dr. Jonathan Ngeh (jngeh@uni-koeln.de).

Please send your application documents, preferably combined in one PDF-file, to Dr. Jonathan Ngeh: jngeh@uni-koeln.de

Deadline for applications is 15.11.2021