

The **University of Passau** owes its strong visibility and good reputation to excellent research, innovative teaching and its tight-knit international academic networks. Some 11,000 students and 1,300 staff study and work on our University campus, which is located a stone's throw from the historical Old Town of Passau and combines state-of-the-art technical infrastructure with award-winning architecture. Internationally successful high-tech companies and a vibrant start-up scene, coupled with a rich culture and Lower Bavarian traditions, give Passau and the surrounding area a special appeal that makes it a great place to live and work.

The **Professorship of Environmental and Technology History** at the University of Passau invites applications for the position of

**Graduate Research Assistant (doctoral candidate)**

starting 1 April 2024.

This is a part-time position, amounting to 0.65 full time equivalent (FTE) based on a fixed-term contract with a term of four years.

**Duties and responsibilities**

- Collaborate on the DFG-funded research sub-project “Bells, Drums and Muezzins – Colonial (In)Tolerance of Religious Sounds” as part of the DFG Research Unit “The Difficulty and Possibility of Tolerance: The Multifaceted Challenges of the Concept and Practice of Tolerance” (University of Kiel)

Project summary: Modern colonial empires were multi-ethnic and multi-religious formations that partly legitimated their conquests and overrule by the alleged need to ‘pacify’ the so-called ‘uncivilised’ peoples by offering them religious freedom and tolerance. This project tackles the contradictions of this history of religious (in)tolerance within colonial societies of the British Empire by focusing on practices and negotiations of (inter)religious sound tolerance. Social concepts of in-group and out-group are key to understanding disapproval or acceptance of sounds in a multi-religious colonial context. When colonial urbanisation led to a confrontation of different religious rules and performances regarding noise in public spaces, religious authorities complained to colonial police stations about ‘noise pollution’ by profane groups or other religious communities. At the same time, neighbouring residents of churches, mosques or traditional African initiation societies demanded that the Muslim call to prayer, church bells or drumming at night be banned. The project analyses the technical, political and judicial measures by which the British colonial governments navigated these local conflicts. The project includes the selected colonial metropolis(es) Accra (Ghana) and/or Mombasa (Kenya).

- Conduct your own doctoral research within this DFG project.

## Person specification

- Must have a master's degree (or equivalent) in history and/or ethnology, Islamic or religious studies
- Bachelor's dissertation, master's thesis and/or doctoral project abstract in the research areas of tolerance/colonial/global/sound/technology/legal history or missionary history
- Interested in archival research, travel, teamwork and interdisciplinary cooperation

## What we offer you

- Remuneration in accordance with pay grade E13 (*pro rata* at 65%) of the German public-sector collective agreement TV-L; the salary step depends on your qualifications and experience.
- A rewarding, diverse and challenging academic position in an interdisciplinary research unit.
- A great work climate in a family-friendly environment.

The University of Passau wishes to increase the proportion of its female staff and expressly encourages women to apply for the position.

This position is suitable for candidates who are registered disabled. Persons with disabilities are given preference over non-disabled applicants who do not otherwise have statutory preferential status if their overall personal aptitudes, skills and qualifications are equal.

If you have any further questions about this position, please contact Professor Stephanie Zehnle by e-mail ([stephanie.zehnle@uni-passau.de](mailto:stephanie.zehnle@uni-passau.de)).

To apply, please send your full application, including all supporting documents (such as your curriculum vitae and school, training and work certificates) as a single pdf file to [libuse.dekretova@uni-passau.de](mailto:libuse.dekretova@uni-passau.de) (secretary) by no later than **30 November 2023**. E-mailed applications are kept on file for six months after the conclusion of the appointment procedure, whereupon they are deleted from our systems.

Please visit [www.uni-passau.de/en/university/current-vacancies](http://www.uni-passau.de/en/university/current-vacancies) for our data privacy statement.