

Position of a predoctoral research fellow (TVöD Bund E13, 65%)

The Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) in Berlin invites applications for the temporary position of a **predoctoral research fellow** starting **as soon as possible until 31 July 2021**. The earliest start date for the position is December 16, 2020. The successful candidate will work in the project *Normality and Crisis: Memories of Everyday Life in Syria as a Chance for a New Start in Germany* funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

General outline of the project

The project, which has been launched in 2018, investigates the notions of societal ‘crisis’ and its conceptual Other, ‘normality’, from the perspective of Syrian refugees in Germany. Countering perspectives that focus on Syrians primarily as migrants or as victims of war, the project explicitly questions everyday experiences in Syria before 2011 while not neglecting the intervening years. The main activities within the final year of the project include the communication of research findings to a wider public. More details on the project can be found [here](#).

Requirements and tasks

Candidates must hold a university degree (Master, Magister or Diplom) in history, social anthropology, or related disciplines. Due to the advanced stage of our project, we are looking for candidates who have already developed an individual research endeavor with a clear link to the key theme of the *Normality and Crisis* project, namely life in Syria before 2011/2012 and its relation to life in Germany. They should be willing to communicate the project’s findings to interested members of the public, especially in Berlin and Brandenburg. Experience with the presentation of research in the form of (online) publications or public events such as exhibitions are considered an asset. Academic proficiency in English or German as well as a good command of Arabic and/or Kurdish are required.

The tasks of the position include the contribution to activities of the *Normality and Crisis* project (internal meetings, workshops, outreach activities). A main focus is the conceptualization and implementation of outreach events and formats for the dissemination of research output. Depending on the status of the successful candidate’s research, a key task will be to upgrade, expand, and substantiate their own research in alignment with the key questions of the *Normality and Crisis* project.

What we offer

The Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) is the only research institution in Germany that deals with the Middle East, Africa, Central Asia, South and Southeast Asia in an interdisciplinary and historically comparative perspective. The position allows the successful candidate to finalize an ongoing research or publication project and benefit from the vibrant and interdisciplinary work environment in Berlin, as well as a motivating and friendly working atmosphere within the project group and the ZMO. Our centre provides opportunities to connect widely with other institutes and networks in Berlin and beyond.

The salary grade for the advertised position corresponds to 65% of a full position in the German scheme of employment in the public sector (TVöD Bund E13). Additional funds for research travel, conference participation, and publications are available. The successful candidate will be required to be based in Berlin.

Diversity

ZMO is committed to maintaining diversity, inclusivity, and equality of opportunity within its community and therefore encourages applications from members of all underrepresented groups.

Application

Please collate the following materials in one single PDF file and send it to zmo@zmo.de with the subject 'Normality and Crisis'.

- Cover letter explaining your motivation for applying (1-2 pages);
- Outline of your research in alignment with the key features of the project *Normality and Crisis* (max. 3 pages);
- A writing sample (max. 10 pages);
- CV with a list of publications, if applicable;
- Copy of certificates or transcripts.

Applications should not contain any original materials, as the documents will not be returned.

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis **starting November 16**. The application process is open as long as this call is found [on our website](#). For further enquiries, please contact the project coordinator, Simon Ullrich and the project director, Dr. Katharina Lange (simon.ullrich@zmo.de; katharina.lange@zmo.de).