
NFG⁰²⁶
NACHWUCHS-
FORSCHUNGSGRUPPE



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**Hans Böckler
Stiftung** 

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Call for applications for the workshop on 2-3 May 2023

Application period: 15 Feb - 25 March 2023

Three PhD fellowships available

Application period: 15 Feb - 31 May 2023

Emerging scholars research group NFG 026

**“Digital Stories of Violence in the 21st Century
Participatory Public Spheres and Autobiographical Narratives in war time
Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine” (NFG 026)**

The Department of Public History at the Institute of History at FernUniversität Hagen has secured funding from the Hans Böckler Foundation to award three doctoral fellowships. These fellowships will support the emerging scholars research group NFG 026, titled "Digital Histories of Violence in the 21st Century: Participatory Public Spheres and Autobiographical Narratives in war time Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine," which will commence on November 1, 2023. An introductory workshop has been scheduled to facilitate discussions amongst interested researchers on theoretical, methodological, and empirical approaches, as well as to explore concrete project ideas.

The research group aims to conduct a critical analysis of participatory practices in the production of digital public spheres, with the goal of providing a historical account of the interplay between digitization and warfare at the beginning of the 21st century. To achieve this objective, the members of the research group will investigate the most recent history of digital infrastructures and their role in creating public spheres in response to state violence. The group will take a qualitative empirical approach to explore how new forms of digital public spaces emerge from

the interaction of state actors, the private sector, and individuals. Specifically, the fellows will examine the emergence, politicization, and commercialization of war time public spheres in Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine since the 2014 Russian annexation of Crimea.

Applications are welcomed from candidates with backgrounds in media and communication studies, anthropology, history, sociology, and cultural studies. Candidates must initiate a direct application to the Hans Böckler Foundation after consulting with the Department of Public History. Prerequisites for eligibility include a keen interest in interdisciplinary research, a strong command of a society in Eastern Europe, and proficiency in German at level B2 by late 2023. The doctoral projects will be hosted at the Department of Public History at FernUniversität in Hagen and may be written in either German or English.

Information on the application process for the scholarships (period: 15.02.-31.05.2023).

The [fellowships](#) will be granted from November 2023, with an initial duration of two years. The doctoral students will receive a funding package of €1,450, consisting of a €1,350 basic stipend and a €100 research cost allowance. Furthermore, a health insurance subsidy of up to €100 and family allowances (if applicable) can be provided. The standard fellowship duration is a maximum of three years, but extensions may be granted if the prerequisites are met in accordance with the relevant BMBF collateral clauses.

Doctoral scholarships are awarded based on the guidelines set forth by the BMBF and the [selection criteria of the HBS](#). Applicants are required to possess an above-average degree (MA/M.Ed./Staatsexamen) and demonstrate a commitment to socio-political or trade union activities.

Interested candidates are expected to submit the [required documents](#), along with a project outline (maximum of 10 pages) that highlights how the proposed project aligns with the research program of the emerging scholars research group. The HBS provides guidelines for preparing the project outline, which can be accessed [here](#). An academic review is not mandatory at this stage. Applications should be submitted exclusively through the Hans Böckler Foundation's online application portal [here](#), which will be available **from February 15 to May 31, 2023**. The scholarship recipients will be announced in October 2023.

Any queries regarding the application process should be directed to bewerbung@boeckler.de.

Workshop information (2-3 May 2023)

A preparatory workshop is scheduled to take place on May 2-3, 2023, at the Berlin Campus of FernUniversität Hagen. The workshop will commence with an introduction to the emerging scholars research group by Prof. Dr. Felix Ackermann, followed by a presentation on the application process by a representative from the Hans Böckler Foundation. Subsequently, the participants will present their ideas on investigating the emergence of war time digital public spheres in the 21st century for discussion. Interested applicants are asked to submit their CV and a one-page abstract in German, English, or Ukrainian to felix.ackermann@fernuni-hagen.de by March 25, 2023, to apply for the workshop. The working languages of the workshop will be German and English, and the costs for travel, accommodation, and meals in Berlin will be covered.