



December 20, 2018

Call for Applications

Two Fully Funded PhD Fellowships
at Central European University, Budapest-Vienna
in the Thematic Area of:

Inclusion and Exclusion in Context: The Invention of Humanity and Dehumanization

Central European University (CEU) invites applications for two new and fully funded interdisciplinary Joint PhD Fellowships starting in the 2019/2020 academic year in the thematic area of Inclusion and Exclusion in Context: The Invention of Humanity and Dehumanization.

The Joint PhD Fellowship Scheme Inclusion and Exclusion in Context

The CEU Joint PhD Fellowship Scheme entails co-supervision by expert faculty members from the Department of Philosophy and Department of History, who are already engaged in ongoing research in the designated thematic area, e.g., as part of the project The Epistemology of the In/Human. One Fellow will pursue a PhD in Philosophy and the other one a PhD in Comparative History.

Enrollment and Funding

Selected applicants will receive a fully funded standard CEU PhD Scholarship, see: <https://www.ceu.edu/node/13714>. In addition to these standard scholarships, the selected PhD students will be eligible for the additional funding CEU standardly provides for PhD students, see: <https://www.ceu.edu/funding-fees/grants-enrolled>.

Details about the Thematic Area

Social inclusion and exclusion happens across time and space, but how it happens depends on specific historical and cultural contexts. In addition, differences (or changes) in 'how it happens' correlate with differences (or changes) in the assumed social ontology that underpins inclusion and exclusion. In this latter regard, the focus of the PhD projects shall be on the social ontology underpinning the phenomenon standardly called "dehumanization" – that some people are regarded as not or as less human, two versions of exclusion that are prominent in the history of ideas and sciences.

The background for the envisioned PhD projects is the following. There is evidence that it is context-dependent whether crossing the animal-human boundary increased or decreased the dehumanization of people (e.g. in justifying slavery). For instance, while in certain historical contexts such crossing entailed both to humanize animals and to bestialize humans (e.g. slaves), this does not seem to be the case in Darwinian thinking. In that context, pointing to a shared ancestry of all humans and animals had an emancipatory force in establishing equality between all humans as part of 'one family.' Yet, this inclusive trend seems to have correlated at the time (the 19th century) with an increase in practices of exclusion.

- PhD in Comparative History. The historically focused PhD project shall investigate, on the basis of empirical material clearly demarcated in the application, an aspect of the historical dialectic of inclusion/exclusion, e.g. along the animal-human divide, during the early modern and modern stages of the “invention of humanity”: the shifting demarcations - in (natural) history, ethnology and in general the “sciences of man” -, of the circle of who belongs to humanity. The overarching question is whether one can establish, simultaneous with this process, an increase in graded dehumanization, solidifying a socially stratified humanity, i.e. an exclusion *within* rather than *from* humanity? The chronological focus shall be between early-modern to contemporary times, but the candidate shall be expected to be able to locate the project within the *longue durée* development of the European tradition.
- PhD in Philosophy. The philosophically focused PhD project shall analyze how to adequately deal with the animal/human divide as part of our social ontology, given the history of usage for dehumanization and given contemporary scientific insights regarding its usage. The student shall investigate the social ontology underpinning the historical changes regarding social exclusion and inclusion and extend the analysis to insights from contemporary philosophy and science of social cognition regarding ‘other minds’, the animal-human divide, dehumanization, and moral standing. Ideally, the project includes insights from critical race studies, gender studies, disability studies, and animal ethics, depending on focus.

Application Process

Interested candidates are invited to apply to one of the listed PhD programs (PhD in Philosophy or PhD in Comparative History), clearly indicating in the application that they are applying for the Joint PhD Fellowship funded by the Intellectual Themes Initiative in the above thematic area.

Please add a detailed research proposal (2-3 pages text, single spaced, page-count excluding list of references)!

Application Deadline

January 31, 2019

Most Important Links and Contacts:

- General CEU application page: <https://www.ceu.edu/article/2018-10-05/ceu-applications-now-open-2019-2020>
- FAQ page for those who want to find out more about the move to Vienna: <https://www.ceu.edu/admissions/legislation-faq>
- For the respective doctoral programs and application procedures, see departmental webpages: <https://philosophy.ceu.edu/phd-philosophy> and <https://history.ceu.edu/node/19>.
- For more information on the thematic area, contact the Inclusion/Exclusion Joint PhD Program Directors, Laszlo Kontler (history) kontlerl@ceu.edu and Maria Kronfeldner (philosophy) kronfeldnerm@ceu.edu
- For more general inquiries about the Joint PhD Fellowship scheme, please contact us at iti@ceu.edu

Central European University is a graduate institution of advanced research and teaching, dedicated to socially and morally responsible intellectual inquiry. CEU's distinctive educational program builds on the research tradition of the great American universities; on the most valuable Central European intellectual traditions; on the international diversity of its faculty and students; on its commitment to social service; and on its own history of academic and policy achievements in transforming the closed communist inheritance. CEU is committed to promoting the values of open society and self-reflective critical thinking. It aims at excellence in the mastery of established knowledge, courage to pursue the creation of new knowledge in the humanities, the social sciences, law and management, and engagement in promoting applications for each, in particular through their policy implications. CEU is a new model for international education, a center for study of contemporary economic, social and political challenges, and a source of support for building open and democratic societies that respect human rights and human dignity.