

Three International Postdoctoral Fellowships in Ethnomusicology at the University of Würzburg on Migration, Minority Cultures, and Intercultural Dynamics in Europe

We are delighted to invite applications for three international postdoctoral fellowships in Ethnomusicology at the Institute of Music Research at the University of Würzburg in Germany. The fellows will carry out individual research projects that contribute to our general knowledge and understanding of migration, minority cultures, and intercultural dynamics in Europe through the lens of musical heritages and new creativities. Each fellow's project should focus primarily on a minority musical community in Germany with migration background. A secondary comparative case study in another European country is optional but not required. Fellows need not have direct experience or knowledge of German culture, but should have expertise in the music culture of the minority community under study (for example, Arabic music, Slavic music, Nigerian music, etc.) in another diaspora context or the original homeland. Funding is provided through the Henriette Herz program of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH), which aims to bring excellent international scholars to Germany who might not otherwise come here. Junior researchers who have completed their PhD within the last 4 years may apply for a fellowship of 6 to 24 months. Experienced researchers who have completed their PhD within the last 5 to 12 years may apply for a fellowship of 6 to 18 months.

Eligibility and Qualifications:

1. PhD with specialization in Ethnomusicology or related field completed within the last 12 years and the relevant training and expertise to carry out the proposed research project.
2. Strong publication record commensurate with career level (publications in nontraditional formats will also be taken into consideration).
3. Language skills: good knowledge of German OR English to engage with colleagues and students at the university and in the broader scholarly community. Additionally, the fellow must have the necessary language skills to carry out the proposed research project, which might be German or it might be a minority language -- in this manner we hope to make non-German speakers eligible for this fellowship. For example, if the fellow's case study focuses on first-generation immigrants or a community that strongly maintains a minority language, then the fellow should be proficient in the relevant minority language -- whether that be Arabic, Turkish, Kurdish, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Polish, Korean, Spanish, French or English (e.g., as spoken by immigrant communities from Francophone or Anglophone Africa, South Asia, and other colonized regions), etc. However, if the case study focuses on a minority culture whose migration background is more historical and whose current generation speaks German as its primary language, then the fellow must be proficient in German.
4. Availability: the start date is flexible, but the fellowship should commence sometime between May 2023 and June 2024.
5. Since the AvH aims to attract promising international scholars to Germany who might not otherwise come here, fellows may not hold German nationality, may not have undertaken post-doctoral research stays nor completed degrees or doctorates in Germany, and may not have previously applied to nor been supported by any of the AvH's fellowship programmes. In general, all fellows must meet the eligibility requirements set by the AvH for Humboldt Research Fellowships (see: <https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/apply/sponsorship-programmes/humboldt-research-fellowship>).

Research Projects:

Prospective fellows are invited to propose an independent ethnomusicological research project focusing on a musical community in Germany with a migration background. Germany's population comprises over 25% first- and second-generation immigrants, as well as significant numbers of citizens with more historical migration backgrounds. There is a need for in-depth qualitative research on the experiences, expressions, and needs of these communities in Germany and in Europe. Fellows may propose to research any minority community, whether the migration occurred recently (as in the case, for example, of Syrian or Ukrainian refugees) or multiple generations ago (for example, Turkish guest workers or immigrants from former German colonies in Africa). The musical community under study may trace its roots to a single country (for example, Afghanistan or Vietnam) or multiple countries (for example, Jews from former Soviet countries). No expertise on Germany is required, however, the fellow should have expertise in the music culture of the community's homeland or another diaspora location (e.g., a fellow studying the Syrian community must have knowledge of Arabic music, and so on). While the primary focus should be on a community in Germany, comparative research may be carried out on a related diaspora community in another European country (the AvH will support the fellow's spending up to 25% of the total fellowship time in a second European country). The specific research questions, theoretical framework, and methods may be proposed by the fellow (to be agreed upon by the host). In addition to ethnographic field work, proposals entailing other methods such as archival work, mixed methods, practice-based research, and/or applied ethnomusicology will also be considered. Each postdoctoral fellow will carry out independent research, but also share ideas and findings with colleagues and students in working seminars and colloquia at the University of Würzburg.

Support:

Fellows will receive a monthly stipend of €2670 for junior postdocs or €3170 for experienced researchers. Additional support will be provided for travel, healthcare, and, if relevant, accompanying family members. Fellowship extensions are available for fellows with small children. Fellows (and their spouses) who are not proficient in German are encouraged to take advantage of the additional language fellowship, which supports 2 to 4 months of intensive German language training before the start of the research fellowship. The AvH also offers extensive support for alumni after the completion of the fellowship.

The Host:

Fellows will be hosted by Professor and Chair of Ethnomusicology Juniper Hill at the University of Würzburg. When not conducting fieldwork or engaging in other research activities offsite, fellows should participate onsite in the intellectual community of the Ethnomusicology Program, the interdisciplinary Institute of Music Research, and, as relevant, other humanities, social science, or area study programs at the University of Würzburg.

See: <https://www.musikwissenschaft.uni-wuerzburg.de/>

Würzburg is a small but diverse city in a lovely vineyard encircled valley of the River Main and is well connected by express train to numerous European cities and to the Frankfurt Airport.

Application procedure:

The following documents should be submitted in PDF format by email to Prof. Hill at juniper.hill@uni-wuerzburg.de by **March 24, 2023**.

1. research proposal (five pages max)
2. curriculum vitae (two pages max)

3. complete list of your publications
4. writing sample

1. The research proposal (5 pages max) should include the following (in any order): statement of research questions; identification of research subject, including musical idiom(s) and demographics and distinguishing features of target group(s); intended contributions to existing scholarship; methodology and work plan; planned research outputs and social impact/benefit to society; and applicant's relevant skills/suitability to carry out the project.
2. The CV (2 pages max) should summarize any qualifications, achievements, and experiences that demonstrate the applicant's expertise and competencies relevant to the proposed project.
3. The list of publications (no page limit) should be organized by type, as in this sample: https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/fileadmin/Bewerben/Allgemein/sample_list_of_publications.pdf. Conference presentations, audiovisual productions, etc., as well as conventional publications, may be included in the list of publications – feel free to create extra categories as needed.
4. The writing sample should be one article or chapter, published or unpublished (i.e., a journal article or a chapter from a dissertation), and should include references cited.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a zoom interview in late April. Successful candidates will be required to submit proof of the completion of their doctoral degree, as well as key publications and, if relevant, language certificates.

We aim to support scholars from groups underrepresented in academia. Applicants from low- and middle-income countries, non-Western scholars, and Black, indigenous, and person of color scholars will be given priority. Scholars of all genders are also encouraged to apply. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation requires that the first fellowship be awarded to a woman.

Contact:

Queries and applications should be sent to Prof. Hill at juniper.hill@uni-wuerzburg.de. Please include "Humboldt postdoc" in the subject of the email.