

Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte



The Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (MPIWG) is an internationally respected research institute of the Max Planck Society (MPG) with currently two research departments, several research groups, and a graduate school. At the MPIWG, around 150 scholars from all over the world investigate the sciences past and present, working together on a collective, collaborative, and transdisciplinary basis. The MPIWG is renowned worldwide as a hub for reflection on the role of the sciences in politics and society. It is located in southwestern Berlin, close to the campus of the Free University Berlin and other research institutions. Department “Artifacts, Action, Knowledge” studies the history of knowledge and action considering the changing role of artifacts: texts, objects, and spaces. Our research collectively examines the processes and structures by which people grappled with the materiality of existence. Through the analysis of everyday actions, we interrogate the boundaries and intersections between the inner workings of objects and all domains of life. The MPIWG will also commence a multi-year collaboration project with the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR), the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (MPIWG), and the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity (MPI-MMG), on the research theme “EduTrack: Tracking Education Pathways and Social Policies,” led by Population Europe.

One Postdoctoral Scholar on “Tackling the Digital Gap between Asia and Europe”

- for two years, with employment contract, TVöD-Bund pay scales (E13) - Starting on September 1, 2026

City: Berlin; Starting date (earliest): 01/09/26; Remuneration: TVöD-Bund pay scales (E13); Closing date: 31/05/26

Tasks

1. Design and conduct qualitative research on different stakeholders shaping academic knowledge production eco-systems in Europe and Asia in terms of access to research materials in the field of historical studies: policy makers, cultural heritage institutions, private research data providers, students in higher education, and academic researchers.
2. Collect and analyze data on the amount, the level of digitization, and accessibility of research materials (both analogue and digital) in the field of historical studies in Europe and Asia.
3. Produce research outputs, including writing, presenting, and publishing findings.
4. Coordination and project management of the MPIWG EduTrack scientific program, including timeline and workflow development, alignment with administrative guidelines, and progress monitoring.
5. Coordination of collaborative scientific activities with EduTrack partners, ensuring effective communication, joint research planning, and methodological coherence across

- institutions.
6. Support leadership decisions through planning, preparation, and coordination of activities.
 7. Engage actively in the general research pursuits of the MPIWG. Contribute to and participate in departmental and institutional research activities and dialogues.

Requirements

- Completed PhD in history, the history of science, STS, or a related field, awarded by the start date of the employment.
- Proven focus on research in digital humanities, databases, and data processing, with a preference for East Asian sources.
- Demonstrated experience in designing and conducting qualitative research, particularly in engaging with diverse stakeholder groups.
- Expertise in collecting, processing, and analyzing data on research resources (analog and digital), ideally in the field of historical research.
- Proven ability to publish scholarly work and present research findings in international contexts.
- Experience in project management, including the coordination of complex work processes, scheduling, monitoring, and alignment with administrative frameworks.
- Strong coordination and communication skills in international and cross-institutional collaborations; experience in developing joint research designs and methodological alignment.
- Proficiency in languages relevant to the project regions.
- Excellent written and spoken English.
- Ability to provide organizational and conceptual support for management processes, including the preparation and steering of decision-making processes.
- Willingness to actively participate in the institute's research activities and to take part in interdisciplinary academic exchange formats.

What we offer

- flexible working hours; the opportunity to work from home as arranged with your superior; the opportunity to work part-time
- annual year-end bonus; occupational pension (VBL); subsidy for public transportation within Berlin or Germany (“Jobticket”); paid leave on Christmas Eve (December 24) and New Year’s Eve (December 31) in addition to regular annual leave
- weekly in-house yoga classes; regular information on occupational health management courses offered by our partner health insurance companies
- access to the wide range of training courses offered by the MPG’s Planck Academy
- close contact with all research and research-support units with the opportunity for direct, personal dialogue
- an international setting with staff and guests from more than forty countries

The Max Planck Society is an equal opportunity employer that strives to foster an inclusive workplace. As an institute of the MPG, the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science supports a working community for all free from discrimination and harassment. We explicitly encourage applications from qualified individuals who belong to groups that are often underrepresented in the workplace due to age, disability, ethnicity, family status, gender, nationality, race, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic background, or religion.

Please follow the links to find out more about the MPIWG’s policies on gender equality and hiring practices for people with disabilities, as well as Germany’s anti-discrimination laws as outlined in the General Equal Treatment Act.

Application

Please submit your application with complete documents, preferably without a photograph, through our application portal. Include cover letter, curriculum vitae; including list of publications (in a single PDF file), copies of qualifications, and the names and contact information of two potential referees. <https://recruitment.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/position/35061761>

Applications must be received by May 31, 2026 (23:59 CEST) // We will continue to accept applications until we have found the right candidate.

Please note that we can only accept electronic applications submitted through the portal.

For questions concerning the position, the Institute or the application process, please send an email to (applications_dept3@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de).

Further information on the MPIWG can be found at <https://www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/>

More information at <https://stellenticket.de/203730/FUB/>
Offer visible until 28/05/26

