RESEARCH FOCUS

Research at the IMPRS Moral Economies focuses on values, emotions, and habits that informed and inspired modern social formations in Europe, North America, and South Asia.

Moral economies are perceived as dynamic and contested instead of static and harmonious; as a consequence, the term is used in the plural rather than in the singular. It encompasses ‘economy’ not only in a literal sense but also to describe broader societal spheres and systems.

Modern and modernizing societies differ from their predecessors in their institutional structures and also set new agendas in terms of how citizens think of themselves, pursue their aims, and interact with others. This includes the introduction of new modes of feeling and the definition and justification of new social values. These are closely intertwined and together they constitute moral economies. The IMPRS Moral Economies sets out to investigate how they were composed, organized, and practiced from the eighteenth to the twentieth century.

The ways in which values and emotions reinforce or contradict each other in modern societies are to be studied on the level of major ideas and concepts and on the level of social interaction and institutional settings. Moral economies are enacted and practiced by people who embrace them both as individuals as well as members of larger social, ethnic, age, and other groups.

APPLICATION PERIOD

Application period for start in October 2013: November 1st – December 15th, 2012

CONTACT

Max Planck Institute for Human Development
IMPRS Moral Economies
Lentzeallee 94
14195 Berlin
Germany

Phone: +49-30-82406-642
Fax: +49-30-824939 (public)
E-mail: moral.economies@mpib-berlin.mpg.de
Website: www.mpib-berlin.mpg/imprs-mems

© Max Planck Institute for Human Development
RESEARCH SCHOOL

The International Max Planck Research School for Moral Economies of Modern Societies (IMPRS Moral Economies) generates a stimulating and supportive environment for research-oriented PhD students, with excellent conditions for peer learning and a close student-supervisor relationship.

The Research School offers six PhD scholarships per year. Highly motivated M.A. (respectively M.Phil. or equivalent) graduates in History or a related field with an outstanding academic record and a strong interest in the relevant topics are encouraged to apply.

The IMPRS Moral Economies was established in 2013. It is jointly funded by the Max Planck Institute for Human Development and three prestigious universities in Berlin, Germany: Freie Universität, Humboldt-Universität, and Technische Universität. The IMPRS Moral Economies is one out of currently sixty-three international research schools under the umbrella of the Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science.

PhD PROGRAM

The IMPRS Moral Economies provides a structured, English-language PhD program in History. PhD students working on a wide range of topics receive funding for up to 4 years.

Coursework (semesters 1–3): Seminars on theory and methodology provide a common context for students from different academic backgrounds. Further seminars and workshops on different aspects of Moral Economies enable the PhD candidates to refine their research projects.

Empirical Phase (semesters 4–5): Collection of source material from archives and libraries and/or fieldwork.

Completion (semesters 6–8): Detailed comments by peers and supervisors help PhD candidates to fine-tune their texts and prepare for the thesis defense.

Supervision and Evaluation: PhD candidates are supervised by faculty members of the IMPRS Moral Economies. The PhD Committee monitors the progress of the project on a regular basis and decides on the extension of the scholarship.

Organizational Support: PhD candidates are given workspace and library access at the MPI for Human Development. Further funding for research stays and conferences is possible. International students are supported in all practical matters of German administration and enrollment at the universities.

FACULTY

Principal Investigators of the IMPRS Moral Economies

Prof. Dr. Birgit Aschmann
(Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Prof. Dr. Sebastian Conrad [not pictured]
(Freie Universität Berlin)

Prof. Dr. Ute Frevert
(MPI for Human Development)

Prof. Dr. Paul Nolte
(Freie Universität Berlin)

Prof. Dr. Alexander Nützenadel
(Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Prof. Dr. Margrit Pernau
(MPI for Human Development)

Prof. Dr. Stefanie Schüler-Springorum
(Technische Universität Berlin)

Check our website for more information on application, admission, and funding: www.mpib-berlin.mpg.de/imprs-mems