Structure of the PhD Program

The PhD program of the IMPRS Moral Economies is divided into three stages: coursework (semesters 1-3), empirical phase (semesters 4-5), and completion (semesters 6-8). Stipends (currently set at 1365 €/month) are initially granted for a period of 2 years. A one year extension can be granted twice, contingent upon the positive evaluation of the project’s progress following the coursework and empirical phases, so that the total funding period would be 4 years. A supervision team consisting of one main supervisor, a second supervisor and a mentor is assigned to each IMPRS student. Generally, the main supervisor and the second supervisor are faculty members of the IMPRS.

Coursework Phase (semesters 1-3)
During the first phase of the PhD program, students take part in a variety of seminars designed to engage them with ‘moral economies’ as a theoretical concept and to help them define the methodological approaches of their research. They are encouraged to use the semester breaks in order to start practical research for their thesis and to locate archival material.

During this phase students are provided with shared working space at the MPI for Human Development. General attendance times at the institute (during the semester) are Tuesday to Thursday from 10 am to 4 pm.

Introductory Weeks
The research coordinator of the IMPRS introduces the new students to the faculty of the IMPRS and to their fellow students. IMPRS students receive guidance in all administrative matters and are familiarized with the rules and regulations of the IMPRS and its program of study.

Semester 1
IMPRS students attend two introductory seminars designed to provide a common context for students from different academic backgrounds, thus developing cohesiveness among the students.
- Introduction to Moral Economies and the History of Emotions
- Theories and Methodologies in Historical Research

The seminars are taught by different members of the IMPRS faculty and by researchers from the Centre for the History of Emotions at the MPI for Human Development.

Semester 2
Students intensify their engagement with the concept of moral economies and can further profit from Berlin’s vibrant academic community.
- IMPRS students take one course with a focus on moral economies. These are seminars taught by the IMPRS faculty, researchers of the MPI and/or one of the participating universities and are also opened (as a fast-track option) to MA students. Ideally, IMPRS students should have the opportunity to choose between two or more seminars. It is possible to substitute this seminar with other courses offered at one of our partner universities, contingent upon approval by the student’s supervision team.
- The IMPRS offers a regular weekly seminar, which is self-organized by the PhD students. Themes, practical exercises and reading material reflect the individual topics and interest of the students.
- Additionally, students can attend the research colloquia of their supervisors, seminars relating to their own research interests and other project-related courses (e.g. a language course).

**Semester 3**
Students qualify themselves further and gain skills in imparting knowledge in an academic context. They are encouraged to use semester breaks for scouting archives and collecting preliminary source material and data.

- IMPRS students in the 3rd semester regularly attend the research colloquium of their supervisors and present their work (or an alternative event, in case there is no research colloquium offered in this semester).
- Students further gain skills in imparting knowledge in an academic context by conducting sessions in the study program of the following year’s new cohort (e.g. by selecting texts and discussing them in the last 2-3 sessions of the seminar “Introduction to Moral Economies and the History of Emotions”).
- Students taking part in the academic exchange with the University of Chicago or the University of California, Berkeley during the 3rd semester should attend academic events offered at their host institution.

**Empirical Phase (semesters 4-5)**
During the 4th and 5th semesters, IMPRS students primarily focus on gathering and evaluating source material from archives and libraries. Depending on their research topic and the location of the archives, IMPRS students may be away from Berlin for extended periods of time, but continue to take part in important events in the IMPRS program (such as the annual retreat). The collection of archival material needs to be completed by the end of the 5th semester, in order to allow ample time for the writing-up of the thesis.

Each IMPRS student can be reimbursed with up to 2,000 € for expenses directly related to her/his archival research and fieldwork. This money is allotted through funds of the institute – either one of the universities or the MPI – from which the student receives her/his stipend. Details regarding the application process and reimbursement may vary. The IMPRS coordinator will assist the students with the administrative process. Generally, all expenses need to be approved beforehand by the student’s main supervisor; reimbursements are only possible after all original bills are submitted.

**Completion Phase (semesters 6-8)**
Students write their dissertation in the 6th and 7th semesters. The last semester should be devoted to fine-tuning the text with the help of detailed comments by peers and supervisors, and to preparing for the oral defense of the thesis.

IMPRS students need to familiarize themselves with the specific doctoral degree regulations of the university they enrolled in for information regarding thesis submission and thesis defense (see the document: “Information on doctoral degree regulations at FU/HU/TU”).

After completing their PhD, students will be issued their degree from the university as well as an additional certificate plus transcript of records from the IMPRS Moral Economies.
**Further Curricular Activities**

The program of the IMPRS Moral Economies is complemented by seminars with visiting scholars, workshops, and conferences organized by the IMPRS coordinator. IMPRS students also meet for internal colloquia to openly discuss ongoing research with their peers.

All IMPRS students are encouraged to proactively engage in academic networks specifically related to their research topic and to attend further conferences, workshops and courses. To support this, each IMPRS student can apply for additional funds granted by the Max Planck Society (currently set at up to €2,500 per student). Applications can be submitted to the IMPRS coordinator, and are subject to approval by the spokesperson of the IMPRS (for more information see leaflet “Reimbursement of project-related expenditures”).

**Summer School**

The summer school of the IMPRS Moral Economies takes place annually (usually 4-7 days sometime between July and September). It incorporates presentations of students’ projects, discussions of texts in small groups, and talks by senior scholars. Participation in the summer school at the end of the 2nd semester is mandatory. During the course of the program, all IMPRS students should participate in at least two summer schools.

**IMPRS Retreat**

During the retreat, IMPRS students present their dissertation projects and get feedback from all members of their supervision team as well as other principal investigators of the IMPRS. The retreats are also meant for discussing general matters relating to the IMPRS in a collegial atmosphere. Attendance is mandatory for all IMPRS students.

The annual IMPRS retreat is scheduled around the first week of July.

**Exchange with US Partner Universities**

- University of California (Berkeley), Department of History
- University of Chicago, Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society

IMPRS students have the opportunity to spend one semester as “non-degree visiting students” or “visiting researchers” at one of the partner institutions in the US. The stay should generally take place during the course of the 3rd semester, with students participating in classes and other academic events at the host university. Depending on the individual work plan of the IMPRS student and her/his dissertation topic, a stay in the US during the archival phase is also possible. Students wanting to participate in the exchange should inform the IMPRS research coordinator and their supervision team about the exact timeframe of their visit as early as possible and establish contacts with professors and faculty at the host institution.

An application for the exchange program including the following documents needs to be sent to the IMPRS research coordinator:

- letter of motivation, stating the purpose of their visit
- research/study plan with timeframe
- research contacts and planned activities at the host university
- short recommendation by the principal supervisor
During the exchange semester, IMPRS students will continue to receive their regular stipend from the IMPRS Moral Economies in order to cover living expenses. They can also apply for reimbursement of their flight, visa costs and any subsequent student fees. The partner universities can assist the IMPRS students with finding student housing. The status as “non-degree visiting students”/“visiting researchers” will give IMPRS students access to all facilities provided by their host institution (library access etc.). IMPRS students are exempted from tuition costs, and must therefore secure the agreement of the individual faculty member if they want to participate in classes and seminars offered by the host institution.

Supervision and monitoring of progress

IMPRS students should keep close contact with all members of their supervision team and meet with them individually at least once per semester to discuss the progress of their PhD project.

At the beginning of each academic year, IMPRS students make appointments with their principal supervisors to discuss and update the working plan and timetable of the dissertation project. The IMPRS student must write a protocol of the meeting and send it to all members of her/his supervision team, as well as to the research coordinator of the IMPRS.

After the 3rd semester

IMPRS students submit a ‘first chapter’ of their dissertation (e.g. introduction, exposition of the theoretical framework of the dissertation project, etc.) together with an outline of the thesis to all members of their supervision team. Contents, structure and length (approx. 25-35 pages) of the chapter are decided upon beforehand by the main supervisor in consultation with the IMPRS student. The student must communicate this to the other members of her/his supervision team and the IMPRS research coordinator in writing. Deadline for submission is March 31st.

The chapter will be complemented by an oral presentation of approximately 15 minutes to the IMPRS faculty and students during the annual IMPRS retreat. Students are additionally asked to prepare a short abstract (approx. 1 page) for the paper they submitted.

The chapter will be discussed with all IMPRS faculty members during the retreat. The members of the supervision team will then jointly decide on the extension of the doctoral stipends and inform the IMPRS students in writing.

After the 5th semester

IMPRS students submit the following documents to all members of their supervision team and the MPRS coordinator:
- short report on their findings in the archive (due by March 31st)
- ‘second chapter’ of the dissertation (due by May 31st), together with a 1-page-summary of the chapter content/main results

Details regarding the content, structure and length of the documents that should be submitted are decided upon beforehand by the main supervisor in consultation with the individual IMPRS student. The chapter will be complemented by an oral presentation of approximately 15 minutes to the IMPRS faculty and students during the annual IMPRS retreat.

The chapter will be discussed with all IMPRS faculty members during the retreat. The members of the supervision team will then jointly decide on the extension of the doctoral stipends and inform the IMPRS students in writing.