

Funding Programme Democracy



Placing problems in historical context
and tracing the contours of future
societies

Background

Over the last few years, a previously somewhat abstract finding has become an empirical fact: Democracy is not a given. The rule of law, the separation of powers, freedom of expression, and a commitment to the common good have all lost some of their binding effect even in core democratic countries, and have been relativized, called into question, and restricted. Nevertheless, the development is subject to constant fluctuations. Hence, for some time now within Europe there has been a shift in political weighting away from a primarily pro-European stance towards an anti-European discourse, yet in the global crisis resulting from the Corona pandemic, it seems that alongside the return to national decision-making, stronger hopes and expectations have emerged that European cooperation will be able to contribute some positives to the management of the crisis and its resulting problems. At the same time, however, there are still challenges from populist movements, amongst others, which not only question democracy as a political order but indeed also the independent role of science and the research findings it produces. The return of war into the middle of the world shared with Europe has also shattered many certainties as regards the stability and legitimacy of governments and nation states.

Taking this present-day experience as a starting point, the Gerda Henkel Foundation has developed a series of publications from different perspectives:

- The first, historically oriented subsection on the topic of **Democracy as a Utopia, Experience and Threats** aims at placing the aforementioned problematic issues in the broader historical context and considering the history of conflicts over the foundation of the social order.
- The second subsection, which is oriented towards analysis of the present situation and predictions for the future, focuses on **Transformations of Democracy? Or: The Contours of Future Democratic Society**. It represents an invitation to venture contributions, speculations and assertions so that we might learn to better understand the complex present-day situation and the processes of profound transformation that are taking shape while also trying to trace the contours of future society.

**Call for
applications
for
subsection
1:
Democracy
as Utopia,**

Experience and Threat

Call for applications for subsection 2: Contours of Future Democratic Society

Application

Prerequisites

Applications are open to post-doctoral researchers with links to a university from the broad spectrum of humanities and social sciences. The proposed projects must address focal themes that are being examined by a research group, which the Foundation understands to mean teams of at least two scholars actively taking part in project work, who are to be funded by scholarships from the Foundation and are researching shared topics. Applications for individual grants outside of a research group are not permitted.

Post-doctoral or research scholarships will be considered. The applicants (principal investigator or project leader) must be actively involved in the research work of the project. Applications for a research scholarship for the applicant are also permitted. In total, a maximum of three scholarships plus funds for travel and equipment may be applied for by each research group. Other people who are not funded by grants may also be involved in the project.

rerequisite for funding is an assurance that those working on the project will receive their own research output that will be published under their names. The simultaneous receipt of salary or retirement pension and a research scholarship is not possible.

Maximum duration is 36 months.

Approved scholarships are usually transferred directly to the scholarship holders on a monthly basis. The remaining approved funds are to be administered through the account of an institution.

Application Documents

Necessary application documents can be uploaded in the electronic application system.

Applications will only be accepted in German or English language and should include:

Description of the research proposal (**max. 8 pages**)

- plus bibliography if necessary (in addition to the max. 8 pages)
- line spacing 1.5
- please choose a readable font, e.g. Arial 11 pt. or Times New Roman 12 pt. (We kindly ask you to keep to the formal requirements on how to compile application documents)

Work plan and time schedule, travel itinerary (if needed)

Detailed cost calculation

- specific funds being applied for must be precisely defined
- no college or tuition fees
- no overhead costs

Curriculum vitae and list of publications of the applicant(s)

If needed, curriculum vitae and list of publications of the proposed project participant(s)

If needed, academic certificates of the project participant(s) (Masters, PhD, professorship, etc.; please do not send Bachelor certificates)

If a scholarship for the applicant is planned:

Academic certificates of the applicant (Masters, PhD, professorship, etc.; please do not send Bachelor certificates)

do **not** additionally send the documents by email or postal mail.

Payment

Education for scholarships as part of a research groups

Research staff on research projects may only be financed by PhD scholarships or research scholarships. A fundamental prerequisite for receiving a scholarship is that research staff conduct their own research, which is published under their name. The awarded scholarships are usually paid directly to the scholarship holders on a monthly basis. Alternatively, the scholarships may be administered via a grant account at your institution. The following rates apply:

Applicable to new permits from 1 January 2024.

Research scholarships

Monthly scholarship award: 1.920 euros

Education stipend holders working on Ph.D. or research projects with children, will receive a monthly family grant in addition to their scholarship. The family grant is granted on presentation of the child's birth certificate and disbursed for **children have not yet turned 18**.

· one child: EUR 480

· each further child EUR 120

Monthly endowment for scholarships abroad: 480 euros

Travel aid: as required

Material aid: as required

Research Scholarships for Postdocs

Monthly scholarship award: 2,760 euros

Education stipend holders working on Ph.D. or research projects with children, will receive a monthly family grant in addition to their scholarship. The family grant is granted on presentation of the child's birth certificate and disbursed for **children have not yet turned 18**.

· one child: EUR 480

· each further child: EUR 120

Monthly endowment for scholarships abroad: 690 euros

Family aid: as required

State aid: as required

Research Scholarships after Post Doctoral Lecture Qualification

Monthly scholarship award: 3,720 euros

Classification under the stipend rate “after post doctoral lecture qualification”, the following applies: In higher education systems in which a formal second academic qualification beyond the doctorate (e.g. habilitation or an equivalent procedure) is required, this second qualification will be treated as the determining qualification. In other education systems in which a second qualification of this kind is not part of the academic structure, the Foundation will as a rule regard the holding of a permanent (normally tenured) professorship or other permanent higher education teaching position at a mid-level or senior rank (e.g. Associate/Full/Distinguished Professor, Senior Lecturer, Reader, Professor) as an equivalent qualification to the habilitation; comparable positions may be recognised as equivalent in individual countries in line with the respective national ranking system. A positively evaluated junior professorship is likewise recognised as equivalent. Positions such as Assistant Professor or Lecturer, as well as fixed-term junior professorships without a positive evaluation, are not regarded as equivalent to the habilitation.

Habilitation stipend holders working on Ph.D. or research projects with children, will receive a monthly family grant in addition to their scholarship. The family grant is granted on presentation of the child's birth certificate and disbursed for **children have not yet turned 18**.

For one child: EUR 480

For each further child EUR 120

Monthly endowment for scholarships abroad: 930,- euros

Family aid: as required

State aid: as required

Grants for work may be awarded for **smaller** research activities. The Foundation does not offer rates in this regard.

Deadlines Current deadlines

for proposals is announced once a year. The next application deadline is **3 2026**.

Form

Electronic Application Form for the Foundation:

Please ensure that you are using the correct application form and that you complete it in full.

When filling in the form, please follow standard rules of capitalization and avoid using exclusively uppercase or lowercase letters.

For technical reasons, the Foundation recommends completing the form in one session and keeping it open in only a single browser window.

It is possible to reopen and continue editing the form for ten days via a personal link once it has been created. The ten-day period begins when the form is first generated; subsequent changes do not extend this period. After the ten days have expired, your data will be deleted from the server.

Once you have completed the form, you will receive a summary that you must confirm separately before submitting it electronically.

When you submit the form, your data will be transmitted electronically to the Foundation. The application can no longer be viewed or modified thereafter. You will receive a confirmation of receipt at the email address you provided.

Please follow these rules when uploading your application files:

All documents need to be uploaded as pdf-files.

Please do not upload protected PDF documents.

A single file may not exceed a file size of 6 MB each.

You cannot upload more than one document per upload field.

The application can only be sent, if all necessary documents are included.

note the following additional information:

Your data will be stored by the Gerda Henkel Foundation for the purpose of processing your application and will not be passed on to third parties.

The Gerda Henkel Foundation will be happy to provide you with information about the data that we have stored on your person at any time. If so required, personal data can be changed or deleted.

This form may only be used to make an application to the Gerda Henkel Foundation. The Foundation reserves the right to delete application data without prior notification, if necessary.

Application form subsection 1: Democracy as Utopia, Experience and Threat

Application form subsection 2: Contours of Future Democratic Society

**Publishing
aid**

Publishing aid is currently only awarded to especially successful projects already supported by the Foundation. Please include the following documents:

A two-page summary of the academic merit and innovativeness of the monograph/collection

A cost calculation by the publishing house (if you are working with a German publisher, please use the form made available by the Foundation)

The manuscript on which the calculations are based (digital).

Calculations can be submitted at any time.

As an alternative to applying for a printing subsidy for the publication of a monograph or an edited volume in book form, applicants may request funding for Open Access publication costs. The Foundation does not, however, cover Open Access costs for the publication of individual articles.



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**Supported
projects**
