

THE GUTENBERG ACADEMY AND GUTENBERG GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES 2023 JOINT AND OPEN ROUND TABLE

On Monday, March 27th, 2023, 6pm – 8pm

“Between privilege and precarity: the many facets of doing a PhD in Germany”

Dear GA and GSHS Members,

In the context of the WissZeitVG (law regulating fixed-term employment contracts in academia), there is currently a great deal of discussion going on about the situation of research assistants in qualifying/third-party positions. Reform proposals have tended to focus on the postdoc phase however, so our early-career researchers are missing out on a more comprehensive view of precariousness and inequality in the doctoral phase. Those employed in qualifying positions at our university, particularly in the humanities and social sciences, make up a minority of all doctoral students.

At this event, which is aimed at all interested parties at the Johannes Gutenberg University and the partner institutions within the Mainz Science Alliance as well as the partner universities of Darmstadt and Frankfurt/Main, we will be taking a closer look at the situation of PhD students as well as at the transition to the postdoc phase. We will also be placing the #ichbinhanna discussion within a larger context, looking at it specifically with reference to the doctoral phase and its immediate aftermath.

There will be two keynote presentations. The first of these, by Dr. Sarah Widany, will highlight both current research findings on forms of precarity and diversity during the doctoral phase and the impact of these on further (academic) careers. The second presentation by PD Dr. Kristin Eichhorn will examine the reform proposals for the WissZeitVG and the conclusions to be drawn from over a year of #ichbinhanna specifically with regard to the situation of doctoral students (and recent doctoral graduates) in Germany. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss different aspects of these topics and put their questions to the experts in the plenary session.

Input by the speakers will be delivered in English. The plenary discussion will take place in English or in German according to participants' needs.

We look forward to your participation and your contributions.
Elena Joser (GA) & Jeanne Ruffing (GSHS)



PROGRAM

Welcome

Chair



Univ.-Prof. Dr. Kai Arzheimer
*Professor of Political Science at
the JGU, Senior Member of
the Gutenberg Academy (GA)*

Co-Chairs



Miriam Brunnengräber, M. A.
*Institute of Sociology,
Junior Member of the GA*



Aurora A. Sauter, M. A.
*Institute of Sociology,
Member of the GSHS*

Inputs



Precarity and diversity in early career research – empirical findings

Dr. Sarah Widany
*Project lead of the National Academics Panel Study (NACAPS) at the
German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies, Berlin*



The reform proposals for the WissZeitVG and the conclusions of #ichbinhanna

PD Dr. Kristin Eichhorn
*University of Stuttgart, co-initiator of the Twitter campaign #ichbinhanna and
co-author of the book of the same name, see:
<https://www.suhrkamp.de/buch/ichbinhanna-t-9783518029756>*

Plenary Discussion & Conclusion

Chair: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Kai Arzheimer; Co-Chairs: Miriam Brunnengräber & Aurora A. Sauter

Registration

Please register by emailing to gutenbergakademie@uni-mainz.de by **March 20th, 2023**.

Event location

Department of Law, Faculty 03, ReWi, Dekanatssaal, Room 03.150