

## **Call for Applications**

Summer School

### **History Takes Place – Urban Change in Europe**

Paris, 6 -18 September 2010

Paris is not only one of Europe's most vibrant cities; it is also of immense historical interest. The capital of France since 987, Paris rose to global importance in the Early Modern Period. It is a place where European history is shaped as well as a centre for political debates and conflicts. Paris has seen many internal struggles and revolutions, many of which had an impact on the political developments in other countries. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the city repeatedly came under threat or siege, or was conquered by German troops.

Henry IV's promise to make the city the royal residence led to a boom in development. Even though his grandson Louis XIV moved the court to Versailles, Paris remained the capital city, and its importance grew hand in hand with the increasingly centralized state. As France rose to become Europe's leading political power, Paris became the political centre of the western world, superseding Rome in this role.

From the second half of the seventeenth century onwards, Paris also outflanked Rome as the cultural leader of the western hemisphere, a position it gained through political power, and which it was able to defend until the mid-twentieth century. For centuries, Paris set the standards and the tone in science, the arts, and popular culture.

Its near-mythical status as the leading metropolis has not saved Paris from internal political conflict. The city appears to be almost a prisoner within the physical boundaries set in the nineteenth century. Integration of the population in the surrounding banlieue has proved difficult. The separation of the urban centre from the periphery, a result of historical city planning, as well as social segregation and an increasing housing shortage, have for years been conspicuous problems of the Paris conurbation. Redesigning Paris as a modern metropolis is the aim of a public competition initiated by President Nicolas Sarkozy in 2009 under the heading 'Le grand Pari(s)'.

Since 2003 the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius has invited up to twenty young historians and social scientists (usually postgraduate students) annually to take part in studies programmes in various locations. The aim is to find the traces of history in the topography, architecture and monuments of the place. The city itself is 'read' as a historical source – 'History Takes Place'.

Taking the French capital as an example, the aim of this year's summer school is to create an international network of the historical, cultural and social sciences as well as architecture and city planning, in order to examine current developments in urban environments in Europe. Professor Dr. Thomas Kirchner (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main) is the academic director of the summer school, which is a collaborative project together with the German Forum for Art History, enabled by the generous sponsorship of the Gerda Henkel foundation.

## **Applications**

The summer school invites applications particularly from postgraduate students in history, cultural studies and the social sciences, as well as young architects and city planners. Applicants should have a genuine interest in an interdisciplinary exchange on the history of the city and city development. Participants need not necessarily have a specialization connected with Paris, but should have a keen thematic and methodological interest in urban studies. Sessions will be held in French, German and English. Applicants must have reading skills in at least two of the languages, preferably all three, and are expected to prepare for the sessions with course materials and reading lists in order to be able to give a presentation on a set topic related to their academic interests and competencies.

The ZEIT-Stiftung will cover travel and accommodation expenses.

Please send your paper application together with a statement of interest, CV and suggested presentation topic (max. 2 pages) to the following postal address:

ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius  
Dr. Anna Hofmann  
Feldbrunnenstraße 56  
20148 Hamburg  
Germany

The application deadline is 10 May 2010.

Further information:

[www.history-takes-place.de](http://www.history-takes-place.de)