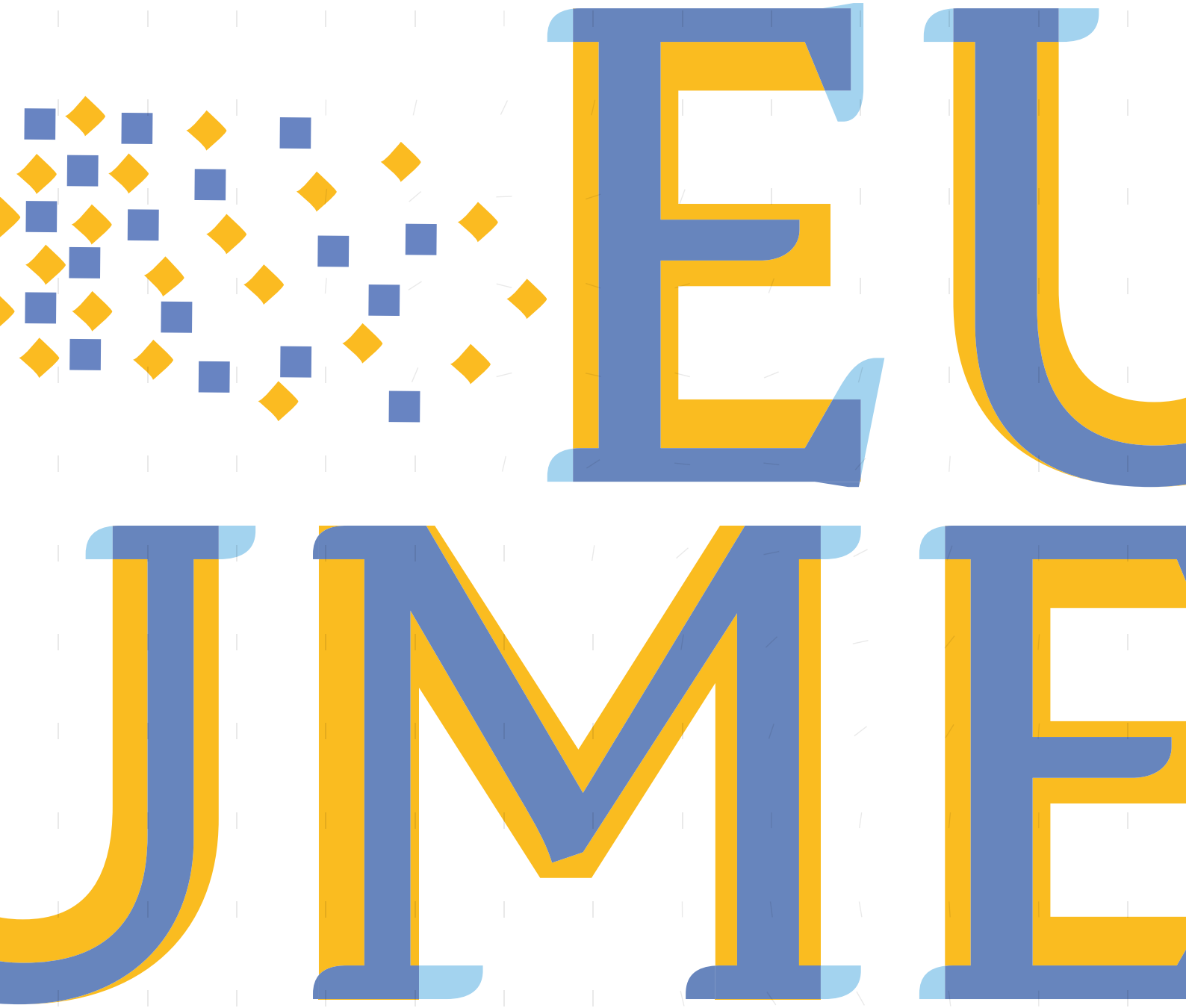


Call for Applications

The Berlin-based Forum Transregionale Studien invites scholars to apply for up to **three postdoctoral fellowships** for the academic year 2027/2028 for the research program **Europe in the Middle East—The Middle East in Europe (EUME)**.

Closing Date: 19 January 2027, 12.00 noon (CET) / Location: Berlin, Germany

Forum
Transregionale
Studien

Europe in the Middle East—The Middle East in Europe (EUME) seeks to rethink key concepts and premises that link and divide Europe and the Middle East. The program draws on the international expertise of a growing network of scholars in and outside of Germany and is embedded in university and extra-university research institutions in and outside of Berlin. EUME supports historical-critical philology, rigorous engagement with the literatures of the Middle East and their histories, the social history and life of cities and the study of Middle Eastern political and philosophical thought as central fields of research not only for area or cultural studies, but also for European intellectual history and other academic disciplines. The program explores modernity as a historical space and conceptual frame. EUME is interested in questions relating to ongoing transformation processes in and between Europe and the Middle East, in re-imaginations of the past and present that contribute to free, pluralistic and just societies.

The program puts forward three programmatic ideas:

1) supporting research that demonstrates the rich and complex historical legacies and entanglements between Europe and the Middle East; 2) re-examining genealogical notions of mythical 'origins', and 'purity' in relation to culture and society; and 3) rethinking key concepts of a shared modernity and future in light of contemporary cultural, social, and political divisions and entanglements that supersede identity discourses as well as national, cultural or regional canons and epistemologies that were established in the nineteenth century.

Europe in the Middle East—The Middle East in Europe (EUME) started its work with interconnected research fields and themes that developed into an open framework for the fellowship program that constitutes EUME:

Travelling Traditions: Comparative Perspectives on Near Eastern Literatures reassesses literary entanglements and processes of translation and canonization; **Cities Compared: Governance, Participation, Heritage and Plurality** contributes to the debates on civil society, deliberation, opinion formation, citizenship, migration and mobilization from the experience of cultural and religious differences in cities around the Mediterranean; **Tradition and the Critique of Modernity: Secularism, Fundamentalism and Religion from Middle Eastern Perspectives** tries to advance a more inclusive language of culture, religion, politics and community; **Politics and Processes of Change, Archaeologies of the Present, and Imaginations of the Future** are research themes that emerged during the last years.

Since 1997, more than 400 scholars from and of the Middle East have been EUME Fellows, who, by their scholarly projects, engagement, and their inquiries into the order of knowledge, society and politics, shape the academic program of EUME that is coordinated by Georges Khalil, Claudia Pfitzner, Chiara Midulla and Jessica Metz at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

Fellowships

We invite scholars in the humanities and social sciences who want to carry out their research projects in connection with the Berlin-based program. The up to three fellowships announced here are intended to contribute to the mobility of researchers, and are primarily addressed to scholars from outside Germany.

As the number of fellowships we are able to offer is limited, we invite interested scholars also to apply with their own funding or contact us with the inquiry for support in finding third party funding. If this may be an option, please contact us via **eume@trafo-berlin.de** anytime.

Applicants should be at the postdoctoral level and should have submitted their dissertation before the application, and obtained their doctorate within the last seven years. Fellows gain the opportunity to pursue research projects of their own choice within the framework of Europe in the Middle East—The Middle East in Europe (EUME). Successful applicants will be fellows of EUME at the Forum Transregionale Studien, and associate members of one of the university or non-university research institutes listed below or connected to the Forum Transregionale Studien.

The fellowships announced here start on 1 October 2027 and will end on 31 July 2028. Postdoctoral fellows will receive a monthly stipend of 3,000 € plus supplements depending on their personal situation. Organisational support regarding visa, insurance, housing, etc. will be provided. Fellows are obliged to work in Berlin and to help shape the seminars and working discussions related to their research field. The working language of EUME is English.

Application Procedure

We kindly ask you to submit your application via the secure online application platform of the Forum Transregionale Studien by **19 January 2027, 12.00h (noon) CET**:

https://application.trafo-berlin.de/

Please note that applications by e-mail will not be considered.

As part of your application, you will be asked to prepare and upload the following:

— a curriculum vitae (including a list of publications), no longer than 3 pages,
— a project description (no longer than 3 pages) that includes a brief explanation of your motivation to join EUME, and
— the names of two university faculty members who can serve as referees (no letters of recommendation required).

In case of questions, please consult the **FAQ** or send an e-mail to **eume@trafo-berlin.de**.

Institutional Framework

Europe in the Middle East—The Middle East in Europe (EUME) has been initiated in 2006 as a joint research program of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the Fritz Thyssen Foundation and the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. It builds upon the previous work of the Working Group Modernity and Islam (1996-2006). Since 2011, EUME is continued at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

In scholarly terms EUME is steered by a Collegium that currently consists of Ulrike Freitag (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin), Cilja Harders (Otto Suhr Institute of Political Science, Freie Universität Berlin), Nora Lafi (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin), Rachid Ouaissa (Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies, Philipps-Universität Marburg / MECAM – Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb), Friederike Pannewick (Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies, Philipps-Universität Marburg), Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva), Samah Selim (Rutgers University), and Stefan Weber (Museum for Islamic Art, Berlin).

The Forum Transregionale Studien (Forum) is a research organization for the promotion of cross-border cooperation between scholars of different expertise and perspectives on global issues.

The Forum provides scope for exchange on questions of science policy, epistemology and ethics, and develops infrastructures and formats that allow transregional research ideas and projects to be tested, implemented and communicated. The Forum is constituted by its members and the diversity of their research expertise and networks. It is committed to strengthening area studies and to the principle of non-hierarchical research. It appoints scholars from around the world as fellows and engages in joint research programs and initiatives with partners from universities and research institutions in and outside Berlin. The Forum is funded by the Berlin **Senate Department for Higher Education and Research, Health and Long-Term Care**.

The Forum currently supports the following research programs and initiatives: re:constitution – Exchange and Analysis on Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe, Prisma Ukraïna – Research Network Eastern Europe, and Europe in the Middle East—The Middle East in Europe (EUME). Beyond Restitution: Heritage, (Dis)Possession and the Politics of Knowledge (BEYONDREST), directed by Banu Karaca, is an ERC-funded project related to EUME, hosted at the Forum. The Forum is a member of the consortium of MECAM: Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb, and of the research college EUTIM: Europäische Zeiten/European Times – A Transregional Approach to the Societies of Central and Eastern Europe.
Zukunftsphilologie: Revisiting the Canons of Textual Scholarship and 4A_Lab: Art Histories, Archaeologies, Anthropologies, Aesthetics are connected programs developed at the Forum that are continued at other institutions.

For more information on the Forum, its programs, initiatives and communication, please visit
www.forum-transregionale-studien.de

TRAFO – Blog for Transregional Research
https://trafo.hypotheses.org/

For further information on EUME, please visit
www.eume-berlin.de

For information on the research institutions in Berlin participating in EUME, please visit

— Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Freie Universität Berlin
https://www.bgsmcs.fu-berlin.de/
— Center for Middle Eastern and North African Politics, Otto Suhr Institute of Political Science, Freie Universität Berlin
https://www.polsoz.fu-berlin.de/en
— Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient
https://www.zmo.de
— Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School of Literary Studies, Freie Universität Berlin
https://www.geisteswissenschaften.fu-berlin.de/en/friedrichschlegel
— Institute of Islamic Studies, Freie Universität Berlin
https://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/en/e/islamwiss
— Museum for Islamic Art
https://www.smb.museum/en/museums-institutions/museum-fuer-islamische-kunst/
— Seminar for Semitic and Arabic Studies, Freie Universität Berlin
https://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/en/e/semiarab
— Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies, Philipps-Universität Marburg
https://www.uni-marburg.de/de/cnms
— MECAM – Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb
https://mecam.tn/?lang=en