



The Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology is one of the leading centres for research in social anthropology. Common to all research projects at the institute is the comparative analysis of social change; it is primarily in this domain that its researchers contribute to anthropological theory, though many programmes also have applied significance and political topicality.

The Department 'Law & Anthropology' is offering positions for

## **2 Doctoral Students (m/f/d) in the field of "Private Law"** **(starting April 2024)**

### **Background**

The positions are assigned to our newly founded Max Planck Research Group "Cultural Diversity in Private Law", headed by Dr. Mareike Schmidt. This group explores the role of cultural diversity in core fields of private law, with a special focus on contracts and torts. In particular, the group seeks to understand the cultural embeddedness of legal processes in these fields and the way legal professionals deal with their own and others' cultural conceptions of normality. Its ultimate goal is to contribute to the improvement of legal doctrine and practice regarding an inclusive application of private law in culturally diverse societies.

### **Your Tasks and Profile**

The essential duty of the PhD students will be to develop, write and submit a PhD dissertation on a subject of relevance to the research group project. This should include a substantial period of empirical research.

The following prerequisites should be fulfilled:

- academic degree (Staatsexamen, master or equivalent) in law in hand at the time of taking up the position, ideally with distinction
- a particular interest in German private law, ideally contract law
- willingness to conduct empirical research (e.g. interviews) and to familiarize with the necessary methods as well as socio-legal theory
- proficiency in German and English
- capacity to work both in a team as well as independently

### **Our Offer**

The PhD positions are awarded for three years, with the possibility of an extension up to 12 months (pending a positive evaluation). Employment will be on a full-time contractual basis. The workplace is Halle (Saale), a dynamic, historical town in central Germany (Sachsen-Anhalt) that is home to numerous renowned universities and scientific institutions.

Successful candidates will be integrated into the Institute's International Max Planck Research School "Global Multiplicity" (<https://www.imprs-gm.mpg.de>), which offers comprehensive structured doctoral training and scientific exchange with doctoral students from our partner universities (MLU, Leipzig University and FAU).

Please note that the Max Planck Institute do not award doctoral degrees. Doctoral students must therefore enroll at a university in or outside Germany. The choice of university will be agreed jointly by the successful applicant and the head of the project.

The Max Planck Society has set itself the goal of employing more severely disabled people. Applications from severely disabled people are expressly encouraged.

The Max Planck Society strives for gender equality and diversity. Furthermore, the Max Planck Society wants to increase the proportion of women in areas in which they are underrepresented. Women are therefore expressly encouraged to apply.

## Contact

Please submit your application electronically by **11 February 2024** following the link for vacancies on our homepage (under 'Career'), or by going directly to the online application form using the link below.

Applicants should send the following documentation (in English or German language, unless indicated otherwise):

- cover letter explaining your interest and suitability
- CV (including a list of publications, if applicable)
- one- to three-page description of your research interests or ideas for a dissertation project in line with the research group's program (in English)
- writing sample (e.g. a seminar paper or similar work)
- copies of university degrees/state exam

Informal enquiries concerning the positions may be directed to Dr. Mareike Schmidt (mschmidt@eth.mpg.de).

If you have questions regarding the application procedure, please contact:

Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology  
Personnel Administration  
Carolin Klevenow (klevenow@eth.mpg.de)

We look forward to receiving your completed online application under:

<https://recruitingapp-5034.de.umantis.com/Vacancies/484/Application/New/2>

Further information on the research agenda of the Max Planck Institute is available on our website:

<https://www.eth.mpg.de>

