



## Max-Planck-Institut für ethnologische Forschung Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology

Our Institute has the opportunity to offer the following positions

- Postdoctoral Grants

The grants are to be awarded in the context of the research programme: "Ritual and Economy in Eurasia" (Project Leaders are Chris Hann in cooperation with Steve Gudeman) within Department II.

The theme of this programme concerns ways that ritual life expands, contracts or changes when economies shift from an emphasis on central planning to the market. The primary regional focus is on postsocialist Eurasia. Our notion of ritual is broad: we are interested in the material (financial) dimension of religion, but equally in secular practices such as hospitality. When do expressive performances become a mode of resistance and social consolidation? Do they enhance contractual relations, or do they shrink in the face of market forces? When the importance of social connections in economy shifts, does the moral aspect necessarily decline as instrumental rationality gains ground? Or is the seam between the two realms more complex? Can concepts such as value and social capital help us analyze this complexity?

Participants must have a PhD and will undertake comparative fieldwork in light of the project's theme. We anticipate that most project members will return to their prior field sites for 6-9 months of ethnographic work after jointly formulating the theoretical and methodological framework in Halle. Subsequent to fieldwork, project members will return for comparative analysis, discussion and writing. Financial support will be offered with the expectation that separate and project publications will be completed in maximum time of three years.

All studies will gather standardized data within the ritual and economy focus and individuals will be expected to expand their research by gathering materials on one or more related topics such as: the motivations behind gifts and other transfers; property, the family and inheritance; the shifting flows and uses of money and other forms of wealth; changing consumption patterns; the labour market and non-market forms of work; etc.

The Postdoctoral Grants are awarded initially for two years, with the possibility of a one-year extension. Postdoctoral Grants can only be awarded to scientists who have received their doctorate within the last ten years. The grants are not taxed and are free from social security stipulations. Individuals with disabilities will be given priority, assuming equal qualifications.

**Starting date:** as early as possible in 2009 (negotiable)

**Applications and qualifications:** PhD in anthropology or a related discipline to be submitted before commencement;

There is no application form to be filled out. You should send the following documentation:

- a cover letter
- a CV including a list of publications
- a project proposal (one page outline)
- photocopies of university degrees
- names of 2-3 referees, whom Chris Hann and Steve Gudeman may contact

Applications may be submitted by email.

Final selection will be made following interviews at a date yet to be arranged. Please send applications to the following address by **30th June 2008**:

Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology  
Personnel Administration  
P. O. Box 11 03 51  
D – 06017 Halle/Saale  
Germany

or email to: [jdiallo@eth.mpg.de](mailto:jdiallo@eth.mpg.de)

For further information about the Institute please visit: <http://www.eth.mpg.de>. Informal enquiries concerning the project may be directed to Prof. Chris Hann ([hann@eth.mpg.de](mailto:hann@eth.mpg.de)).