

CONTACT:

Dipl.-Soz. Doreen Weichert
Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin

Tel.: 030 2093-1856
Fax: 030 2093-1929
E-Mail: Doreen.Weichert@hu-berlin.de

POSTAL ADDRESS:

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Philosophische Fakultät IV
Institut für Erziehungswissenschaften
Abteilung Hochschulforschung
Unter den Linden 6
10099 Berlin



BMBF Project

International Mobility and the Professorial Chair



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Bundesministerium
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The career courses and conditions of international professors at German institutions of higher education

(Duration: 2011 to 2013)

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The increasing internationalisation of institutions of higher education has an influence on the recruitment and composition of academic staff in these institutions. The globalisation of the academic exchange and the academic job market leads to an increasing, repeating and lasting international mobility of the players.

TARGET GROUP

In this project, the career courses and conditions of international professors in the German system of higher education shall be examined empirically. In this project, the term "international professors" stands for all persons with

- a) either foreign citizenship (previous or current)
- b) or German citizenship and a foreign background, i.e. born abroad or at least one parent with a foreign background (incl. "Spätaussiedler", German emigrants from Eastern European countries who returned to Germany long after the end of World War II).

Only full-time professors and junior professors shall be included, but not professors emeritus, guest or honorary professors.

PROJECT APPROACH

This heterogeneous target group should be examined with the assumption that the globalisation of the job markets produces new phenomena for highly qualified people, who shall be described as "transnational" if they make lasting social spaces between several national contexts.

The central working assumption is based on the fact that the career paths within the heterogeneous reference group are different. They vary both in the internal relationship and in relation to the career paths of German professors without an international background. These differences and convergences are not defined in the first place by citizenship, but by a bundle of different factors.

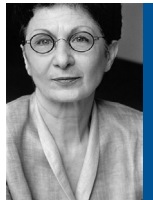
Among others, the following factors influence this: socio-economic and cultural background, gender, history of mobility and migration, experiences of selection and self-selection, institutional inclusion and exclusion processes, differences between academic disciplines, internationalisation processes in institutions of higher education as well as globalisation of the job markets for academics. The complex interdependency of these factors will be analyzed in the project.

All institutions of higher education in the German federal states of Berlin and Hessen are included in the explorative study.

PROJECT TEAM

PROJECT MANAGEMENT:

Prof. Dr. Aylâ Neusel,
International Centre for Higher Education Research Kassel (INCHER-Kassel) Universität Kassel



Prof. Dr. Andrä Wolter,
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Department of Education Studies



IN COLLABORATION WITH:

Dr. Marianne Kriszio,
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Centre for Transdisciplinary Gender Studies



RESEARCH ASSISTANTS:

Ole Engel (M.A.)
Daniela Janke (M.A.)
Doreen Weichert (Dipl.-Soz.)

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Abteilung Hochschulforschung

STUDENT ASSISTANTS:

Ella Pop (B.A.)
Susanne Schmitt (B.A.)
Meike Stürmer (B.A.)