

The **Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität** Bonn is an internationally operating research university with a broad range of subjects. With 200 years of history, around 33,000 students, more than 6,000 employees and an excellent reputation at home and abroad, the University of Bonn is one of the most important universities in Germany and has been recognised as a University of Excellence.

Founded in 2012, the non-profit Tucher Kulturstiftung represents the cultural interests of the family and the Dr. Lorenz Tucher'sche Stiftung, which was established in 1503. As a charitable foundation, it manages the family's inalienable, formerly baronial art and cultural assets. It contributes to the preservation, scientific research and communication of these holdings, which have characterised Nuremberg and the region for centuries.

The **Tucher Kulturstiftung and the Argelander Professorship for Critical Museum and Heritage Studies** are looking for a

Doctoral student

1,700 €/ month doctoral scholarship, 1,500 €/ year travel and material costs

for the research project **“The representation of Black people in European art and material culture using the example of the Tucher family coat of arms”**.

The Argelander Professorship for Critical Museum and Heritage Studies is concerned with transdisciplinary and transcultural cultural heritage research, including the testing of decolonial methods, and aims to plurify the formation of knowledge in museums and cultural heritage. It is part of the Transdisciplinary Research Area 5 “Present Pasts” and the research centre “Global Heritage Lab” at the University of Bonn.

The TRA 5 Present Pasts researches past cultural, political, social and economic constellations from a transdisciplinary perspective in comprehensive geographical breadth and historical depth. The TRA focuses in particular on the interrelationships between current challenges and processes as well as negotiations of comparable phenomena in the past. The knowledge about the functioning of cultural practices generated from such a comparative-historical approach can contribute to a better understanding of the present.

The Tucher Kulturstiftung safeguards the cultural heritage of the foundation and revitalises historical awareness. In addition to general sponsorship, the foundation primarily pursues its own projects. Its tasks centre on preserving, researching and communicating the foundation's own art holdings as an exemplary collection of the Nuremberg patriciate. The holdings of the Tucher Kulturstiftung cover 700 years of art and cultural history, including panel and glass painting, arts and crafts, textiles and graphic art as well as an extensive archive of writings. In addition, there are Tucheriana from other collections such as the Nuremberg churches of St Sebald and St Lorenz and international museums such as the British Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and the Gemäldegalerie Berlin. The Tucher family coat of arms has been emblazoned on many of these objects since 1345, with the head of a Person of Colour in profile as the central motif. While in the early modern period the depiction was interpreted as a portrait of St Maurice and a symbol of Christian defence and virtue, depictions from the colonial period tend to suggest stereotypical, racialising ideas of Black people.

As part of the **doctoral scholarship “The representation of Black people in European art and material culture using the example of the Tucher family coat of arms”**, some of the diverse questions raised by the family coat of arms will be explored. What can the changing depiction of Black people/ BIPoC/ people of the global majority in the coat of arms over the centuries tell us about the perception of people from Africa and the African diaspora in Europe? How did the presence of Black people in Europe shape the representations? What role did upheavals in the history of ideas and political economy, such as the Enlightenment in Europe, the transatlantic trade in enslaved people and the colonisation of non-European territories, play in the different forms of representation? What purposes did the identification of a *white* patrician family with a Black person

serve in these different eras? And to what extent did the changing materiality of European art and craftsmanship influence the forms of depiction of the family coat of arms?

The doctoral candidate is invited to set their own research priorities according to their expertise (epochs, materialities) and to contribute comparative examples to the research. A critical examination of the tipping points of self-perception and external attribution expressed by the changing family coat of arms is desired – ranging from the positively connoted Christian saint from Africa in the late Middle Ages to the representation of an inferior connoted Person of Colour in the colonial period and the associated self-perception of the patrician family. Reference to approaches from Postcolonial and Critical Whiteness Studies is also expressly encouraged.

The doctoral scholarship from the Tucher Kulturstiftung amounts to €1,700 per month. In addition, a family allowance of €300/month can be granted. In addition, the Argelander Professorship for Critical Museum and Heritage Studies will provide €1,500/year for material and travelling expenses, a workplace and a laptop. Among other things, this should allow flexibility between the work location in Bonn and the collections to be researched in Nuremberg as well as international research trips and conference participation. The scholarship holder will have the opportunity to become a member of the transdisciplinary research area “Present Pasts” and the Global Heritage Lab. The scholarship is offered for 36 months with the possibility of extension for a further 12 months. The fellowship should be taken up as soon as possible.

Your tasks:

- Independent research on the topic “The representation of Black people in European art and material culture using the example of the Tucher family coat of arms”
- Annual research reports
- Conclusion of a supervisory relationship at the University of Bonn at the start of the fellowship

Your profile:

- Completed Master's degree in social and cultural anthropology, history, art history, cultural studies, museum studies, material culture studies, postcolonial studies or related subjects
- Experience in dealing with historical German scripts
- Experience in dealing with historical material culture

The University of Bonn is committed to diversity and equal opportunities. It is certified as a family-friendly university. Its aim is to increase the proportion of women in areas in which women are underrepresented and to promote their careers in particular. It therefore strongly encourages applications from suitably qualified women. Applications will be treated in accordance with the State Equal Opportunities Act. Applications from suitable people with proven severe disabilities and persons with equivalent status are particularly welcome. Applications from people who identify as BIPOC are expressly encouraged.

If you are interested in this doctoral scholarship, please send the following documents

- **Informative cover letter**
- **1-2 pages research exposé**
- **Writing sample (master thesis or publication)**
- **CV**

For technical reasons, please send your **complete, informative application documents in German or English by 31 January 2024** exclusively in a **merged PDF file** by e-mail to Ms Nana Tsiklauri ntsiklau@uni-bonn.de. For further information, please contact Junior Professor Dr Julia Binter (julia.binter@uni-bonn.de).