



FROBENIUS-INSTITUT
FÜR KULTURANTHROPOLOGISCHE FORSCHUNG
AN DER GOETHE-UNIVERSITÄT FRANKFURT

Call for applications

Masterclass with Andrew Apter (UCLA)

Writing a research prospectus: theory, method, genre

27 – 28 June 2024, Frankfurt am Main

Masterclass

Andrew Apter is this year's guest of the renowned Ad.E. Jensen Memorial Lectures at the Frobenius Institute for Research in Cultural Anthropology (Frankfurt am Main), titled "Historical ethnography and the ritual archive". In tandem with this lecture series, this masterclass held by Andrew Apter gives young researchers the opportunity to present their research projects – at various levels of development – for preliminary collective review and discussion. The masterclass is free of charge, but places are limited and registration is required. We invite young researchers (Master's and PhD students) to apply.

Outline

Writing a prospectus for master's or doctoral dissertation research occupies a critical place in preparation for ethnographic fieldwork in terms of one's intellectual formulation, ability to secure grant or fellowship funding, and progress to degree. Yet it remains a mysterious and paradoxical prospect, involving multiple drafts, 'fictitious' predictions, and a productive dialectic of clarity and confusion. My goal in this masterclass is to demystify this process by approaching it as a genre of writing sui generis; one that poses a meaningful research question that is rigorously grounded in methodology and oriented toward straightforward pragmatic goals. Mastering the genre, like any craft, takes a bit of practice and time, but once one 'gets the feel' of it, writing a research prospectus is like riding a bicycle over variable ethnographic terrain. On day one I shall lay out the general guidelines and five-section 'architecture' of a well-designed prospectus as formulated by the Social Science Research Council in the US, for whom I evaluated proposals over many years. On day two, participants at various stages of their research will be invited to present project statements along similar lines for productive feedback and discussion.

Application details

Please send an abstract of your research (250 words maximum) and the questions you would like to discuss to Holger Jebens (Jebens@em.uni-frankfurt.de) by 15 May 2024.

This masterclass is being organized by the Frobenius Institute with support from the Hahn-Hissink'sche Frobenius Foundation.



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