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**THE ECOLE DES HAUTES ETUDES EN SCIENCES SOCIALES
THE ECOLE PRATIQUE DES HAUTES ETUDES
THE HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITÄT
THE ISTITUTO ITALIANO DI SCIENZE UMANE
THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY**

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN
THE HUMAN AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
CURRICULUM IN 'EUROPE AND RELIGION: SOCIAL DYNAMICS AND
TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES'**

The question of religion has returned to the fore of public debate at both the nation-state and European level (consider controversies over the religious and secular dimensions of national identities and the European identity; debates about Islam; religious education in schools; sectarian deviation; gay marriage and adoption rights; issues and controversies in bioethics, etc.). This is reflected in academic research on the state of religion in Europe in a globalized world. In the debate on the retreat of secularism, which also addresses the question of the “European exception”, some even speak of “deseccularization” and of “post-secular societies”. Rich in traditions in this field of study, Europe is also made up of countries where political, cultural and religious histories are intertwined in very different ways. At a time when Europe is focussing on building a knowledge-based society, and when national differences nevertheless remain strong in this area, receiving academic training in Berlin, Budapest, Florence and Paris in topics regarding Europe and Religion is a considerable asset for Ph.D. students.

Educational project

For the doctoral course entitled ‘Europe and Religion: Social Dynamics and Transnational Perspectives’, the five partner institutions offer a European Doctoral Programme in the social sciences and history of religion, based on their regular teaching activities, research seminars, and research activities. This course is the second curriculum of a broader European Doctoral Programme in the Human and Social Sciences, whose first curriculum (‘Europe and the Invention of Modernity’) was launched in 2010. A third curriculum (‘Europe in a Global Context’) is also being planned.

The programme ‘Europe and Religion: Social Dynamics and Transnational Perspectives’ relates to research in the contemporary world (19th to 21st centuries) and concentrates on a multi-disciplinary study of processes of change, transfiguration, and re-compositions of the religious. Students will receive their doctoral training through seminars held by contemporary historians, sociologists, anthropologists and philosophers, with interventions – where appropriate – from specialists in political science and law whose interests include religion. The studies are not limited to institutionalized religion, but include all social forms of religious life at the collective and individual level.

Number of places and study grants

Four doctoral students will be admitted to the course each year. The course lasts three years. The grants are of a value of €20,000 per year, including contributions and taxes to be paid by the universities and/or the doctoral student. Accommodation costs have to be met by the doctoral students. The partner institutions will cover all expenses incurred as a result of research-related travel, if approved by the Programme Director.

The payment of grants will commence in January 2012, at the same time as the start of the teaching activities.

A specific insurance policy (health and accident insurance) valid in the country where the student will stay will be taken out for each student, financed by the institutions providing the grants. The doctoral students will also be given access to the teaching and academic resources of the partner institutions. Candidates are admitted to the programme according to their qualifications and the number of places available. In the event of withdrawal from the programme of one or more of the successful candidates, the next candidate from the reserve list will be admitted to the course.

Admission requirements

University qualifications

- Candidates must possess a degree, European or non-European equivalent, that makes them eligible for enrolling in a research doctorate in one of the member states of the European Union.
- Scholars who have already been awarded a research doctorate and grant are not eligible to apply.

Research project

In addition to their application, candidates are required to submit a detailed research proposal for the three-year period (max. 15,000 characters); the proposals are to be written in one of the languages of the doctoral programme (French, English, Italian, German).

Knowledge of foreign languages

Given the nature of the doctoral programme, which involves teaching and research activities in four different countries, the Selection Committee will take account of the language skills of the candidates. At the moment of selection, applicants are required to have a knowledge of two of the following languages: French, English, Italian, German. Candidates should also be willing to learn another of the languages indicated above.

Admission procedure

- Applications must be submitted no later than **October 31st 2011, 11 p.m. (23:00)**, Central European Time, using the online procedure described in the appendix to this call for applications.
- The list of candidates selected for the oral exam and admission interview will be posted online at www.sumitalia.it no later than November 21st. This counts as the official notification.
- The oral examination and interview will be held in Paris on December 5th, 2011

- The application consists of: the application form; two letters of reference written by scholars in disciplines relating to the doctorate; a research proposal; and a CV, including a list of publications.
- The Selection Committee will consist of representatives from all the partner institutions. A preliminary selection will be made on the basis of qualifications and the research proposal. The selected candidates will be invited for an oral examination and interview. Applicants invited to the interviews are entitled to reimbursement of 80% of their travel costs.
- The successful applicants will enrol in an institution of their choice from amongst the partner institutes and will be required to comply with the administrative conditions and legal regulations of the country to which the chosen institution belongs. A co-supervision/cotutelle from another partner institution will also be added.

Teaching programme

- Reflecting the diverse background and academic foci of the five partner institutions, different approaches and perspectives will be used for the study of the various aspects of contemporary religion. Excellence in the social sciences and related disciplines consists in a good application of empirical research and in the development of an appropriate theoretical background. The aim of the European Doctoral Programme is to enable the doctoral students to broaden their intellectual horizons, moving from one academic institution to another and experiencing first hand a multi-focal doctoral training. Although the doctoral students will be enrolled in one of the partner institutions, they will also work in the other institutions, each of which will offer a thematically oriented, specific seminar course. The goal is to provide the doctoral students with a coherent doctoral training so they can exploit the intellectual resources of all the partner institutions.
- Students will be required to attend, in the different partner institutions, the research seminars or courses organized for them according to the academic calendar compiled by the Programme Director. This calendar will consist of two six-week periods (= 72 teaching hours in each period) per year for the first two years of the doctoral programme. The topics of these six-week periods are:

Religion, Modernity, Secularization (Paris, EHESS, EPHE)

State, Religion, Politics (Florence, SUM)

Social Structures of the Religious (Budapest, CEU)

Circulations of the Religious (Berlin, HU)

The courses will be held on a rotating basis at the five partner institutions. Attendance is compulsory. After the first semester, and in conjunction with the student, each student will be assigned a supervisor proposed by the Faculty Council. Students are encouraged to take part in existing interdisciplinary workshops and to organize sessions devoted to the discussion of their research. The third year will be mainly devoted to writing the doctoral thesis.

- The Faculty Council will convene at the end of the first and second year to decide whether the doctoral students can advance to the second and third year, respectively. The Council will make the decision on the basis of an interview with each student and the discussion of a written report prepared by the student. Any student who does not meet the expectations of this programme will be required to leave, and the scholarship will be suspended. More specifically, students are required to submit the following:

- a state-of-the-art-paper and a detailed account of the overall research project (end of first year);
- an annotated table of contents and two chapters of the thesis (end of second year).

Payment of the scholarships is closely dependent on the regular submission of the students' reports on the progress of their research.

All the activities of the programme follow the principles of the European Charter of Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

Supervision

- 1) **Choice of supervisors:** within six months of the beginning of the programme, the Faculty Council, in cooperation with the student, will appoint one supervisor for each doctoral student, chosen from the members of the Faculty Council and/or external academics.
- 2) **Assessment of supervision:** on a periodical basis the Faculty Council will evaluate the degree of interaction between the student and the supervisor, and the effectiveness of the supervision regarding the progress of the student's studies and doctoral dissertation.

Doctoral thesis

At the end of the third year, students are expected to submit a doctoral thesis that makes an original and innovative contribution to his or her field of research. The period of three years cannot be extended for more than another three years (summing up to six years). Students are expected to demonstrate a wide and in-depth knowledge of their topic, both in relation to existing literature on the theme and in the form of thorough research, based on a rigorous and convincing methodology. The thesis will be defended at one of the partner institutions, and must be written in one of the official languages of the programme, which is chosen by the doctoral student in accordance with the laws on joint degrees (co-supervision/cotutelle) in force in the countries of the partner institutions.

Degree

Upon completion of the period of study, a doctoral degree will be awarded to students who have successfully accomplished all the requirements. The doctoral degree will be signed in accordance with the regulations laid down in the joint doctoral supervision agreements. In addition, a European doctoral certificate will also be awarded, in preparation for the plan to establish a European doctoral diploma.

Partner institutions

Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane
Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales
Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes
Humboldt Universität
Central European University

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE ONLINE APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The application for admission has to be submitted using the online platform which can be found on the following web site: www.sumitalia.it/dottorati/. The online application must be submitted together with the requested documents no later than the deadline of **October 31st, 2011, 11 p.m. (23:00)** (Central European Time). Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Application procedure: in order to present an application for admission it is necessary first to register online on the above-indicated webpage by providing the required information and a valid e-mail address. The candidate will receive an e-mail confirming that the registration has been completed successfully. In order to proceed with the application, the candidate must follow the instructions given in the e-mail. If the candidate does not receive confirmation of the registration within 24 hours, he/she should contact the following phone number:
++39/ 055 / 2673314-2673319.

Once registered, candidates can access their own online application form at any moment, by connecting to the login page and inserting their own e-mail address and password. It is possible, for example, to fill in just part of the application form, save the inserted information and continue with the procedure in another or several other sessions. It is also possible to modify already saved information.

It must be noted that the application for admission, with the related attachments, will count as being sent to the Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane only after the completed application form is submitted at the end of the procedure.

In the event of problems, the phone numbers of the Help Desk are displayed during the procedure for candidates in need of assistance.

Procedure for the submission of the required documents: the scanned documents must be attached through the online application form, using the corresponding command “seleziona file”. The following file formats can be used for attachments: “.doc”, “.pdf”, “.jpeg”.

The scanned documents (letters of recommendation, identity card, etc.) are to be submitted in black and white. If the candidate does not have access to a scanner, a copy of the documents can be sent to the following fax number:

++39 / 055 / 2673356, following the instructions of the computer procedure and the application form attached to it.

In the application, the candidate has to provide, clearly and precisely, and under his/her own responsibility:

- name and first name, date and place of birth, residence, mailing address, telephone number, e-mail address;
- citizenship;
- the exact name of the doctoral course for which the application is submitted;
- the academic qualification, with the indication of the date and the university where the qualification was obtained, or the equivalent qualification of a foreign university;
- competence in foreign languages;

- a declaration that he/she will participate in the doctoral course full-time, according to the conditions established by the Faculty Council;
- a declaration that he/she will immediately communicate any changes in residence or mailing address.

Please note that candidates invited to attend the oral exam/interview will be required to sign a declaration confirming their application.

The candidates must attach to their application their master's dissertation, two letters of recommendation written by a scholar working in any of the disciplines pertaining to the doctorate, and a curriculum studiorum, which should contain any useful information helping to illustrate the competences and research qualifications of the candidate (such as certificates, other theses, publications, etc.). A detailed research project which the candidate intends to carry out during his/her doctoral studies (max. 15,000 characters, spaces included) also has to be attached.