

Urban Transformations:

Doctoral Grants in American Studies at the Ruhr Universities

The programs in American Studies and American History of the Ruhr-University Bochum, TU Dortmund University, and the University of Duisburg-Essen, in cooperation with the Mercator Research Center Ruhr (MERCUR), will establish the research program "Spaces – Communities – Representations: Urban Transformations in the United States."

The program will investigate urban transformations in the construction and use of spaces, in the composition and interaction of communities, and in cultural representations of the United States. The PhD projects may have historical as well as comparative/transatlantic dimensions. Possible foci include, but are not limited to, the cultural implications and representations of urban growth and urban shrinkage as parallel trends, processes of economic and social change, the "gentrification" of formerly neglected urban districts, as well as the changing symbolic representation of urban spaces and their architectural and infra-structural landmarks in literary and cultural production. Dissertation supervisors are Randi Gunzenhäuser and Walter Grünzweig (Dortmund), Kornelia Freitag and Michael Wala (Bochum), Jens Gurr and Josef Raab (Duisburg-Essen).

The three-year program will start on 1 April 2012.

We invite graduates in American Studies and American History to apply for six doctoral scholarships.

We offer

- participation in a doctoral program in American Studies
- scholarships of 1,000 Euros per month for a period of three years
- an inspiring research environment that combines the opportunities of the three universities in the Ruhr Area.

Applications are requested by 9 January 2012 and should be sent electronically and on paper to Prof. Walter Grünzweig, Walter.Gruenzweig@udo.edu, Technische Universität Dortmund, Fakultät Kulturwissenschaften, Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik, Emil-Figge-Straße 50, D-44221 Dortmund, Germany. Applications should contain a project proposal of 5-10 pages, a curriculum vitae, a copy of the Bachelor and Master Diploma as well as transcripts, and a letter of reference from a professor in a relevant field. Please include – in electronic form – a copy of the Master's thesis.