



DEAR APPLICANTS, WELCOME TO LEUPHANA UNIVERSITY!

Leuphana is a young university that lays emphasis on innovation, rather than tradition. It is continuously aspiring to create a space stimulated by a collective search for knowledge, unexpected ideas and sustainable solutions. Our success is based on the creativity and energy of our professors and academic staff. We encourage researchers to cross disciplinary boundaries, take responsibility and impact society. We convey this understanding to our students in teaching, research projects and campus life.

At Leuphana, every course of study is built on a holistic approach. At Leuphana, the emphasis is on socially relevant issues instead of subjects. For our students, this means engaging in different scientific approaches from day one.

The [School of Culture and Society](#) continues an almost thirty-year tradition of teaching and research in cultural studies at Leuphana University of Lüneburg. At the School, more than one hundred scholars from disciplines such as art history, literary studies, media studies, philosophy, sociology and history teach and conduct research in a total of five institutes. The School currently offers four majors (“Cultural Studies: Organization, Society, and the Arts”, “Kulturwissenschaften”, “Studium Individuale”, and “Digital Media”) and four minors (“Philosophy”, “Geschichte”, “Museum Studies” and “Studium Individuale”) at Leuphana College, and three master’s degrees (“Kulturwissenschaften: Kritik der Gegenwart – Künste, Theorie, Geschichte, ”, “Kulturwissenschaften: Medien und Digitale Kulturen” and “Cultural Studies: Culture and Organization”).

THE SCHOOL OF CULTURE AND SOCIETY AT LEUPHANA UNIVERSITY OF LÜNEBURG INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING JUNIOR PROFESSORSHIP:

CULTURAL THEORY (W1)

You are an early-career scholar dedicated to current developments in, and international perspectives on, cultural theory with regards to cultural economies and/or digital technologies. Your background is in one of the disciplines that intersect in the interdisciplinary field of cultural studies, or *Kulturwissenschaften*, and in one of the 'studies' that have come to shape cultural theory in the last decades (such as organization studies, science and technology studies, platform studies, software studies, or museum studies). You have a keen interest in researching, understanding and theorizing the contingent and contested, discursive as well as material and affective constitution of culture, its impact, its transformation, and its changeability.

Your research is already investigating practices, materialities and discourses at the heart of Lüneburg's School of Culture and Society's core research areas; or you are set to develop and realize research that contributes to these areas. You are therefore expected to expand and enrich existing perspectives on or related to

- research on a cultural theory of the digital world, for example in relation to the school's research focus on 'climate futures in digital cultures'; and/or
- research on cultural economies towards a cultural theory attuned to the cultural force of economic logics, in particular (but not exclusively) with a view to alternative social and artistic economies and/or the so-called creative industries and their forms of value creation and their technological, platform-based transformation.

For this position, we are seeking a committed early stage researcher who shows promise of excellence in teaching and research.

You can document original research contributions to the field of cultural theory (a relevant dissertation and additional publications of high quality). Ideally you can demonstrate initial experience in submitting research proposals (e.g. through independent acquisition of grants, collaboration on larger applications, experience with the handling of third-party funding projects).

Your teaching will contribute to the School's English-language study programs (BA Organization, Society, and the Arts; MA Culture and Organization; BA Digital Media). You can document prior teaching experiences in the subject areas of this junior professorship. Ideally you have supervised theses on Bachelor and Master levels and you also have some experience in co-supervising or mentoring Ph.D. students. Based on your research focus and background, you will become a member of one of the school's institutes according to your profile and preference, and you will be invited to join and contribute to its research centres (Centre for Digital Cultures; Centre for Critical Studies).

Your academic work gives evidence of innovative contributions to teaching and research, your talent for cooperating with partners inside and outside academia and your strong commitment to interdisciplinary dialogue.

According to § 30 NHG, formal requirements are a university degree and a doctoral degree in a discipline relevant to the open position, your aptitude for teaching, and your ability to engage in independent academic research as demonstrated by the outstanding quality of your dissertation.

The junior professorship will be filled in accordance with pay grade W1 and is initially limited to a period of three years. The position will be extended for an additional three years, subject to a positive academic evaluation (in accordance with the [guidelines for the mid-term evaluation of junior professors](#) of Leuphana University of Lüneburg). The standard teaching load is 4 teaching hours per week.

At Leuphana, you will find an academic community that is open to changes in perspective and cultivates the dialogue among the different disciplines as well as between research and practice. With spirit and initiative, we address the challenges of civil society in the 21st century. Pursuing our idea of liberal education, we enable our students to think, reflect and act upon it. Our professors foster the awareness of gender and diversity aspects in teaching and research.

Leuphana University is an equal opportunities employer. The university aims to increase its number of female professors. Qualified women are especially invited to apply. Severely disabled applicants and applicants with equivalent status will be considered preferentially in accordance with the applicable legal provisions.

For further information please contact the Dean of the School of Culture and Society Prof. Dr. Christina Wessely (christina.wessely@leuphana.de) or Prof. Dr. Timon Beyes (timon.beyes@leuphana.de) at the Institute of Sociology and Cultural Organization (ISCO).

Please submit your application (without submission of an application photo) consisting of the following materials in two separate PDF files: a) motivation letter, CV, research concept (max. 2 pages), copies of academic degrees and b) your dissertation as well as two other publications of your choice. Please enclose the completed [application form](#) (as Excel file) with your documents. Guidance on the required application materials can be found [here](#).

Applications should be sent preferably via email using the keyword **“Cultural Theory” (W1)** beko@leuphana.de or to the President of Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Post Box 2440, Lüneburg D-21314 by **February 22, 2026**. Please be aware that we cannot return application documents sent physically.

By submitting your application, you consent to your data being stored and processed for the purpose of the recruitment process.

Please note our Data Protection Notice for Applicants ([in English](#) or [in German](#)).

BECOMING A PROFESSOR AT LEUPHANA UNIVERSITY LÜNEBURG

YOUR APPLICATION

When applying for a professorship at Leuphana, please be aware that the formal requirements are prescribed by law and cannot be overruled by the selection committee. Your documents should provide a concise insight into your unique scientific profile and how you and your achievements will contribute to Leuphana University. When reviewing the publications you handed in, the selection committee would like to grasp your scientific aptitude, the quality and the scope of your work. Hence, you are invited to select three publications in order to showcase your versatility and suitability for the open professorship. Also, if identified in your CV, the committee will take events impeding your academic advancement into account such as illness, childbirth, or care. Please do not include a picture in your CV.

WE ARE SELECTING CAREFULLY

The appointment of a professor in Germany is a formal process that typically takes between 6 to 12 months and involves several steps. A selection committee (Berufungskommission) is established specially for the purpose of selecting the most promising candidates, it consists of professors, students as well as scientific and administrative staff. After the application deadline, the committee takes the time to thoroughly review the applications and publications and to invite the most suitable candidates to a personal interview, including a scientific presentation and a test lecture. At that stage, they may also ask you to provide further details such as research or teaching concepts. Usually, the best three candidates are then assessed by professors from other universities based on their application documents. Considering these assessments, the committee ranks the candidates according to suitability and recommends them for appointment. The list is final after passing the university boards: Department Council, University's Senate, Presidential Committee and Board of Trustees. Only after that, the first candidate is invited to take up negotiations regarding resources and remuneration, receiving a letter of appointment. Should the offer be turned down by one candidate, the person following on the list is contacted.

BEING A PROFESSOR IN GERMANY

As a professor in Germany, you will have the privilege of being elevated to civil servant status if you meet the personal requirements (i.e., pass an official medical examination, provide a certificate of good conduct). This status is beneficial in terms of salary, pension, health insurance and employment security when compared to other academic employment. The salary follows a state pay scheme (W-Besoldung), for full professors it allows for individual bonuses depending on their performance.

The civil service status is established not by an employment contract, but by a "certificate of appointment". If appointment as a civil servant is not possible, you will be employed under contract. A separate agreement between you and Leuphana, which is subject of the negotiation preceding your appointment, will define the resources and services provided by the university as well as the contribution you will make to research, teaching and the development of Leuphana University.