

FUNDING OFFER

PERSPECTIVES ON WEALTH: THE (RE-)PRODUCTION OF WEALTH

Deadline for project outlines: see website

Profile area: Societal Transformations



Eligible for funding:

- The humanities, cultural and social sciences (lead)
- Cooperation projects with natural, life, data and technical sciences also possible



Type of funding: international cooperation projects



Up to 1.5 million euros (+ 30,000 euros preparatory funds).



Project duration up to 4 years



International research groups, inter- and transdisciplinary teams possible



Requirements: 3-5 PIs with lead applicant at German university/research institution and at least 2 international partners; integration of partners in the Global South desired.



Additionally: funding for science and research communication.

1 GOALS

Profile area "Societal Transformations"

In the profile area "Societal Transformations", the Volkswagen Foundation supports research that addresses diverse aspects of transformation processes. It encourages cross-border and multi-perspective approaches and aims to open up new ways of contributing toward shaping societal transformations.

Call for proposals: "(Re-)Production of Wealth".

Extremely unequal distribution of income and wealth is a recurring source of conflict that presents an ongoing hindrance to human development. Scientific research into the phenomenon of wealth therefore constitutes a central element in understanding processes of societal transformation. With the funding initiative "Perspectives on Wealth", the Volkswagen Foundation aims to initiate a change of perspective involving a shift from poverty research to facets surrounding the phenomenon of wealth.

The focus of this call for proposals is on the genesis of wealth. Against the background of past, present and projected future processes of societal transformation and the existing power and domination relations, the call aims to generate conceptual, methodological and empirical findings on the "(Re-)Production of Wealth". In this context, the goal is to identify what kind of (new) conceptual and methodological approaches are needed to enable such a shift of perspective to wealth research. Since a comprehensive analysis of the phenomenon is considered an important building block for understanding processes of societal transformation, the Foundation is also interested in investigating how wealth relates to past, present and future processes of societal transformation. The aim is to critically question existing normative settings in various areas of science and society (e.g., research on capitalism, sustainability and transformation) in order to subsequently open up new insights and action potentials and to communicate these accordingly.

2 FUNDING OFFER

Lead applicants from a German university or research institution in the humanities, cultural studies or social sciences cooperate in inter- and transdisciplinary projects with at least two international partners, preferably from the Global South.

In this funding line, applications can be submitted for cooperation projects in which researchers from German universities or research institutions work together with international partners on equal terms in order to generate empirical findings on the (re)production and genesis of wealth in a global perspective and to initiate a target group-specific transfer. Both micro- and macro-level studies are possible. Lead applicants must be employed at an institution in Germany. The integration of at least two international partners is mandatory; in addition, the integration of non-state actors (NGOs, etc.) is highly desirable.

3

FRAMEWORK

Project design:

- Funding is provided for closely interacting research teams with 3 to 5 partners each. In addition to a lead applicant from a German university or research institution, the participation of at least two partners currently based in LMICs (Low and Middle Income Countries, according to World Bank classification) is required.
- The lead applicants must be researchers from the humanities, cultural studies and social sciences at all career stages after their doctorate.
- The involvement of interdisciplinary partners is possible, but not obligatory.
- Actors from outside academia can be included as project partners, but not as PIs (co-applicants). To a small extent, costs for project partners, e.g. for travel expenses and/or contracts for work, can be included in the budget.
- The further qualification of early-career researchers must be a central element of the respective research project.

Budget and project duration

- The project duration can be up to four years, with a maximum budget of 1 million euros for consortia with 3 PIs and 1.5 million for consortia with up to 5 PIs.
- Funding can be provided for personnel costs (according to local standards and the regulations of the home institution; higher rates for senior international researchers are permissible) as well as non-personnel costs (e.g., travel expenses, workshops, consumables, data generation/processing/storage, publication costs (open access), measures of science communication and necessary equipment).
- Please note: Only regular positions can be included in the budget for early-career researchers. For senior researchers, a teaching substitute or a short-term sabbatical can be considered. A position for an academic project coordinator (50% of a TV-L E13 position) can be included in the budget.
- Overheads will not be covered. However, a reasonable amount of funds to finance a part-time administrative support position at the institution of the lead

applicant(s) and a flat-rate administrative fee of 10,000 euros for the project partners may be included in the budget.

- In terms of funding for non-personnel costs, the Foundation expects a relatively even distribution among the various partners.

4 APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

Documents must be submitted in English. The review process is two-stage. Project outlines can be submitted up to the deadline date.

Preparation phase

- A 5-page project outline must be submitted by the deadline date
- Within this framework, preparatory funds of up to 30,000 euros can be applied for.
- The review is carried out by an international and interdisciplinary panel of reviewers according to the criteria listed below.
- Detailed feedback on rejected project outlines cannot be provided due to the expected high number of outlines.

Full application

- Up to 15 project consortia will be invited to submit full proposals.
- The evaluation is carried out by an international and interdisciplinary panel of reviewers and includes the presentation of the projects.

The following selection criteria shall apply:

- Overall quality and feasibility of the proposal
- Quality of the research design: convincing theoretical framework and coherent methodology (and its critical reflection).
- Quality of the intended cooperation (partnerships on equal terms)
- Capacity building and participation of early-career researchers and, where appropriate, non-state actors.
- Transformative potential of the project, convincing concept for target group-specific knowledge production and transfer of the intended results

Anticipated schedule



5

NOTES ON APPLICATION/ APPLICATION STRUCTURE

Applications must be submitted in English via the Volkswagen Foundation's online application portal volkswagenstiftung.de with all the supporting documents listed below. The Foundation expects applications to be submitted jointly by all partners in the project. Therefore, all applicants (lead applicant and co-applicant) must be registered in the electronic application system.

In addition, the following documents must be submitted as "attachments" (pdf files):

- **German and English summary of the project** (each max. 2,500 characters, incl. spaces, Arial 12)
- **Project outline of the cooperation project** (max. 17,000 characters, including spaces/max. 5 pages) with the following information:
 - Research questions and aim of the project
 - Theoretical framework and methodological approach
 - Description of the research gap and importance of the project for the research field "wealth research".
 - Information on the transformative potential of the project
 - Project participants and their tasks in the project
 - Organization of the group and expected synergy effects
- **List of referenced literature** (up to 1 page)
- **Short CVs of all team members** (max. 2 pages each) with up to five publications related to the research area (e.g., research data; monographs, articles, blogs, science communication).
- **If applicable, application for preparatory funds of up to 30,000 euros for max. 6 months** (1-page written justification incl. budget overview)
- **Costs projection for the cooperation project in euros** (up to 1 page per budget plan)

- divided according to the working groups in the respective countries (i.e., one cost projection per country);
- divided into personnel costs (research staff, other staff), recurring non-personnel costs (e.g., travel expenses, consumables) and one-off expenses (e.g., data and literature procurement, science communication measures)

The Foundation will not process applications that have already been submitted in the same or similar form to another funding body. Applications that do not meet the formal requirements will also be excluded from the review process. No applicant may be involved in more than one application per call for proposals (national/international cooperation projects and summer schools).

The Foundation can only award funds to scientific institutions. Applicants operating outside of universities and well-known research institutions are asked to provide information on the legal form, articles of incorporation, trustees and board members, non-profit status, budgeting, and auditing of the institution to be funded. An annual report from the applicant institution should also be included.

6 CONTACT AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact:

Dr. Sebastian Matthes

Telephone consultation (by appointment)

matthes@volkswagenstiftung.de

Administrative and organizational issues:

Maria-Luisa Förster

Phone: +49 (0)511 83 81 385

foerster@volkswagenstiftung.de

More information

- › [Link to the website "Perspectives on Wealth"](#)
- › [Application portal of the Volkswagen Foundation](#)
- › [FAQs about the application](#)
- › [FAQs for applicants from abroad](#)
- › [Electronic application made easy – instructions and tips](#)
- › [Personnel funding rates for \(non-\)scientific staff members](#)
- › [Additional funding for science communication: information on how to apply for funding](#)
- › [What we do NOT fund](#)

Before submitting your application, please inform yourself about the Volkswagen Foundation's electronic application portal. Information on this can be found in the document "Electronic application made easy - instructions and tips". Please also read the answers to the "Frequently Asked Questions" thoroughly, as they are part of the call for proposals.