

FUNDING OFFER

PERSPECTIVES ON WEALTH:

THE (RE-)PRODUCTION OF WEALTH

Deadline for full proposals: see website

Profile area: Societal Transformations



Eligible for funding:

- Humanities, cultural and social sciences (lead)
- Cooperation with natural, life, data and technical sciences possible



Type of funding: national cooperation projects



Up to 800,000 euros.



Project duration up to 4 years



National research groups; interdisciplinary teams possible



Requirements: max. 3 PIs from at least 2 different universities/research institutions in Germany.



Additionally: funding for science and research communication

1 GOALS

Profile area "Social 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.

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Lead applicants from the humanities, cultural sciences or social sciences develop new theoretical and methodological concepts, where applicable with partners from the natural, life, data and technical sciences.

In this funding line, national collaborative projects with researchers from German universities or research institutions can be applied for. Researchers from the humanities, cultural studies and social sciences will work in closely interacting teams to gain insights into the (re)production and genesis of wealth. The focus will be on the development of new theoretical and methodological concepts for the study of wealth. The involvement of partners from the natural, life, data and technical sciences is possible.

3 FRAMEWORK

Project Design:

- Funding is provided for closely cooperating research consortia with up to 3 partners from at least 2 different research institutions in Germany.
- Scientists and scholars at all stages of their careers in the humanities, cultural studies, and social sciences working at German universities and research institutions are eligible to apply.
- The inclusion of partners from the natural, life, data and technical sciences as co-applicants is possible, but not mandatory.
- The further qualification of young scientists 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 EUR 550,000 for consortia with two PIs and of EUR 800,000 with three PIs.
- Funding can be provided for personnel costs (positions for early-career researchers and teaching substitutes or short-term sabbaticals for senior researchers) 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).
- Overhead costs (overheads) will not be covered. However, a reasonable amount of funds may be included in the budget to fund a part-time administrative support position at the lead applicant's institution.

4 APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

Documents must be submitted in English. Applications submitted by the deadline will be peer-reviewed.

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
- Transformative potential of the project, convincing concept for target group-specific knowledge production and transfer of the intended results
- The evaluation is carried out by an international and interdisciplinary panel of reviewers and includes the presentation of the projects.

Anticipated schedule:



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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 collaborating partners. 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 description** (max. 34,000 characters, including spaces/max. 10 pages), with detailed information about:
 - Research questions and aim of the project
 - Theoretical framework and methodological approach
 - Status of research and significance of the project for the research field "wealth research"
 - Success criteria for the achievement of the set goals of the project
 - Project participants and their tasks in the project
 - Organization of the group and expected synergy effects
 - Work plan (incl. Gantt chart)
 - Concept for knowledge production and transfer of the targeted results to policy makers and/or the general public.
- **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).
- **Costs projection and justification in euros** (up to 1 page per costs projection)

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:

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Administrative and organizational issues:

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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.