

# SOCIALIST DICTATORSHIP AS A WORLD OF MEANING

Institute of Contemporary History (Prague) & Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung (Potsdam)

Application deadline: June 20, 2008.

The grants are directed to scholars from all countries. Applicants must hold or expect to hold a PhD (or be able to demonstrate equivalent and substantial research experience) in history or another discipline in the humanities or social sciences. Fellows are expected to conduct their own research; nonetheless preference will be given to those applicants whose interests relate to the research of the group. The candidates should have a good working knowledge of German and/or English (knowledge of Czech is appreciated but not indispensable).

The fellowship carries a stipend of EUR 3,000 for a two month grant period. The non-renewable funding is supposed to cover all expenses including travel, housing, and insurance. Fellows are expected to reside in Prague for two consecutive months between October 2008 and June 2009. The Institute will provide office space, Internet access and other relevant facilities. Fellows will conduct their own research and participate in the events of the research group.

Furthermore, they will be asked to present their current project in a colloquium. During their residence at the Institute, fellows will use the Prague academic facilities for their research purposes. The Institute's library holds approximately 40,000 items and subscribes over 150 Czech and 100 international periodicals. Other Prague libraries also provide valuable resources for the study of the history of East-Central Europe. Moreover, short research travels within the region during the fellowship are possible.

Decisions will be announced by June 30, 2008. All applications must include: 1. a letter of interest; 2. a CV (including a list of publications); 3. a project proposal not exceeding five pages (1,500 words); 4. two letters of recommendation.

Please send the application to: Pavel Kolár, Ph.D. Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam, Am Neuen Markt 1, 14467 Potsdam. Tel.: 0331/2899112; Fax: 0331/28991. E-Mail: kolar@zzf-pdm.de.

Letters of recommendation may be sent under separate cover. No applications or recommendations by fax will be accepted. Inquiries about the fellowship programme should be directed via E-mail to Pavel Kolár (kolar@zzf-pdm.de) or Michal Kopecek (kopecek@usd.cas.cz). For further information see <http://www.sinnwelt.usd.cas.cz>.

The Institute of Contemporary History in Prague and the Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam are pleased to invite applications for two Visiting Fellowships in the academic year 2008-2009 to work within the Prague-based postgraduate research group *Sozialistische Diktatur als Sinnwelt/Socialist Dictatorship as a World of Meaning*.

The two-month fellowships provide an opportunity to pursue individual research as well as to participate in the scholarly community and activities of the international postgraduate team. The research group, a joint venture of the Institute of Contemporary History, Prague, and the Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam, is concerned with cultural representations of social order in state socialism in East-Central Europe. Its aim is to analyze the mechanism of establishment, perpetuation and erosion of communist regimes in terms of cultural history. Exploiting the concepts of *Sinnwelt*, *Ordnung* and *Herrschaftswandel*, it focuses on the interdependence between the primarily non-political, everyday constructions of meaning and the stabilisation of dictatorial regimes.

Generously supported by the VolkswagenStiftung, the venture includes eight individual projects dealing with the history of communism in Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. The objective of the fellowship is to strengthen international cooperation and to overcome the hitherto dominant national exclusivity in the study of communism. Comparative projects are therefore welcome.