

Call for applications: “International Workshop on Empirical Educational Research - Extended Education” for early stage researchers (supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research)

From 28 November to 1 December 2016 there will be an international workshop on empirical educational research in the field of extended education at the Philipps University of Marburg. The workshop is aimed at doctoral candidates with a research focus on **extracurricular educational research** (*extended education*; Master’s students can also apply if they are planning to study for a doctorate in this field – please see below for the application conditions). Leading international experts from the field of extended education research will report on the latest developments in this field of research during this workshop and be available to the doctoral candidates as contacts for their dissertation projects. The workshop is being organised by Sabine Maschke, Ludwig Stecher and Ivo Züchner.

In many countries, it has been noted that activities and programmes which support learning and contribute to the success of education outside of the curricular framework and outside of the classical institutions of school, vocational college and university are becoming increasingly important. In terms of Germany, these extracurricular activities include all-day school, educational programmes by music schools or adult education centres, activities in the field of further general and professional training and extracurricular youth training programmes. Although the objective and the design of the programmes in question vary, they have a lot of similarities but also a range of problems in terms of education and research methods. Together, they define a new, innovative research area.

In the German-speaking world, these extracurricular educational activities are normally combined and investigated under the term “non-formal activities” or “learning opportunities” (for example in the National Educational Panel (Nationales Bildungspanel (NEPS)) or the Study on the development of All-Day Schools (Studie zur Entwicklung von Ganztagschulen (StEG))). In an international context, terms such as “after-school programmes”, “extracurricular activities” and “designed activities” are used. Recently, the term “*extended education*” has started to be established in international research.

The *common* aspects which define the research area of extended education are initially based on the fact that an *improvement* in the educational support provided to both low-performing and high-performing pupils is expected from the extended education, in addition to a *better use* of the educational potential of all layers of the population, the *breakdown* of social inequalities in the acquisition of education and *increased* options for inter-subject and social learning. Further commonalities that make the field of extended education a holistic research area can be identified in the fundamental educational structures of the activities and programmes.

Until recently, there was a lack of comparative research projects and above all continuous academic exchange on this relatively new area of educational research at an international level. In order to improve this situation, an international research network on extended education (*Network for Extracurricular and Out-of-School Time Educational Research – NEO-ER*) was established in November 2010 with the support of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The fourth network meeting took place in Seoul in April 2016. With the support of the German Research Foundation, the *International Journal for Research on Extended Education* (IJREE; see www.ijree.com) was founded in 2013.

The next important step to strengthen educational research in the field of extended education is the targeted **support of early stage researchers**. The workshop aims to contribute to this. Questions of the empirical feasibility of innovative research ideas and the selection of appropriate research methods are the focus in particular, including the perspective of international comparative research (in the sense of comparative educational research).

Objective of the workshop: the (primarily in English but partly also in German) workshop aims to contribute to the development of technical and methodological skills amongst early stage researchers in the field of extended education research (at an international level) and strengthen networking in this area of research, which is growing at both a national and an international level.

We offer: Early stage researchers (Master's students and doctoral candidates from the fields of educational sciences, psychology and sociology) have the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of educational research in the field of extended education, familiarise themselves with the development of new methods and discuss and test their use through specific international research examples together with experts (academics from the international research network NEO-ER).

The early stage researchers will also have the opportunity to present their own qualification work in extended education and discuss it with experts. There will be one expert to advise each group of 4-5 participants on their qualification works (allocation will be based on subject).

We also offer a proportional share of the transport costs (travel expenses up to a maximum of 200 euros; second class rail journey with a BahnCard), accommodation in a mid-range hotel (three nights), catering (breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack; the evening meal is not covered).

How can you apply?

Please send us the concept of your qualification work (which can be at any stage of development), with information about the research question, theory and method etc. on a maximum of three pages **by 18 July 2016** (see below for the address). Your project should relate to one of the research fields of extended education, so extracurricular educational institutions, extracurricular activities at all-day schools, extracurricular youth training activities (you can use the contributions to the International Journal for Research on Extended Education for guidance). It does not matter which research methods you are using or whether your research focus is more on the activities, in other words the institutional framework, or the participants. If your application is accepted you will be asked to prepare a poster that you should send to us no later than six weeks before the start of the workshop. **Please send applications to: sabine.maschke@uni-marburg.de**

If you have any questions, please contact: Prof. Sabine Maschke (sabine.maschke@uni-marburg.de) or Prof. Ludwig Stecher (ludwig.stecher@erziehung.uni-giessen.de) or Prof. Ivo Züchner (ivo.zuechner@uni-marburg.de). To find more information on our homepage, just click [here](#).