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Short information

College for Interdisciplinary Educational Research

A Joint Initiative of the BMBF, the Jacobs Foundation and the Leibniz Association

Mission

The College is a project that aims at supporting early Postdoc researchers with the development of their own projects in the field of interdisciplinary educational research. Its major goals are the promotion of the early independence of excellent young researchers who recently completed their PhDs, and the advancement of interdisciplinary educational research in a life course perspective. Long-term aims of the College are:

- promotion and improvement of interdisciplinary educational research of young researchers at the postdoctoral level,
- joint research activities among participating (senior and junior) researchers,
- the establishment of an interdisciplinary educational research network of researchers working at Leibniz Institutes and universities, and
- an increased scholarly awareness of “public science”.

Funding

The College is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (grant number: 01JG1201) and the Jacobs Foundation (grant number: 2011-963)—in cooperation with additional funding provided by from the six Leibniz Institutes (mentioned below).

Participating institutions and researchers

Researchers from six Leibniz Institutes and colleagues from universities will work together to support a group of selected postdoctoral scholars. The participating Leibniz Institutes are:

- Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW, PD. Dr. F. Pfeiffer)
- German Institute for International Educational Research (DIPF, Prof. Dr. E. Klieme)
- German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin, Prof. Dr. C.K. Spieß)
- GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (Prof. Dr. B. Rammstedt)
- Leibniz Institute for Science and Mathematics Education (IPN, Prof. Dr. O. Köller)
- Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB, Prof. Dr. H. Solga).

Activities

The College will start with 30 fellows on March 1, 2013. These fellows should be in a pre or post-doctoral status (ABD doctoral students or up to 12 months past promotion).

The College’s activities of support will include interdisciplinary discussions and workshops on theories and methods of key subdisciplines in educational research, and funding of

interdisciplinary projects developed independently by the young researchers themselves and carried out in cooperation with colleagues from other disciplines within the College (either be some “seed money” for research tandem or micro-groups or by seven fully funded postdoc-positions from March 2014 till February 2016, placed by a competition among the 30 fellows).

To further promote postdoctoral scholars’ early involvement in international educational research networks, the College will support research visits abroad, organize international workshops and conferences, and invite internationally distinguished scholars in the field of educational research for research visits and the College’s workshops/conferences. These activities will not only support international network-building, but will also promote a comparative research perspective and the projects of the College’s postdoctoral scholars.

Finally, it will promote young scholars’ awareness for “public science”, i.e., the awareness of the value of conducting problem-oriented – theory-based – empirical research and of actively engaging in discussions about their research results with experts and specialists working in politics, schools, organizations and media.

Programme

The **first year** of the College will be devoted to workshops on theory (within the three College’s research areas) and methods, to the development of ideas for interdisciplinary research projects. The kick-off workshop (KW) and the two workshops on disciplinary research (FW) and advanced methodology (SW) will be designed to support the young researchers in developing ideas for interdisciplinary projects.

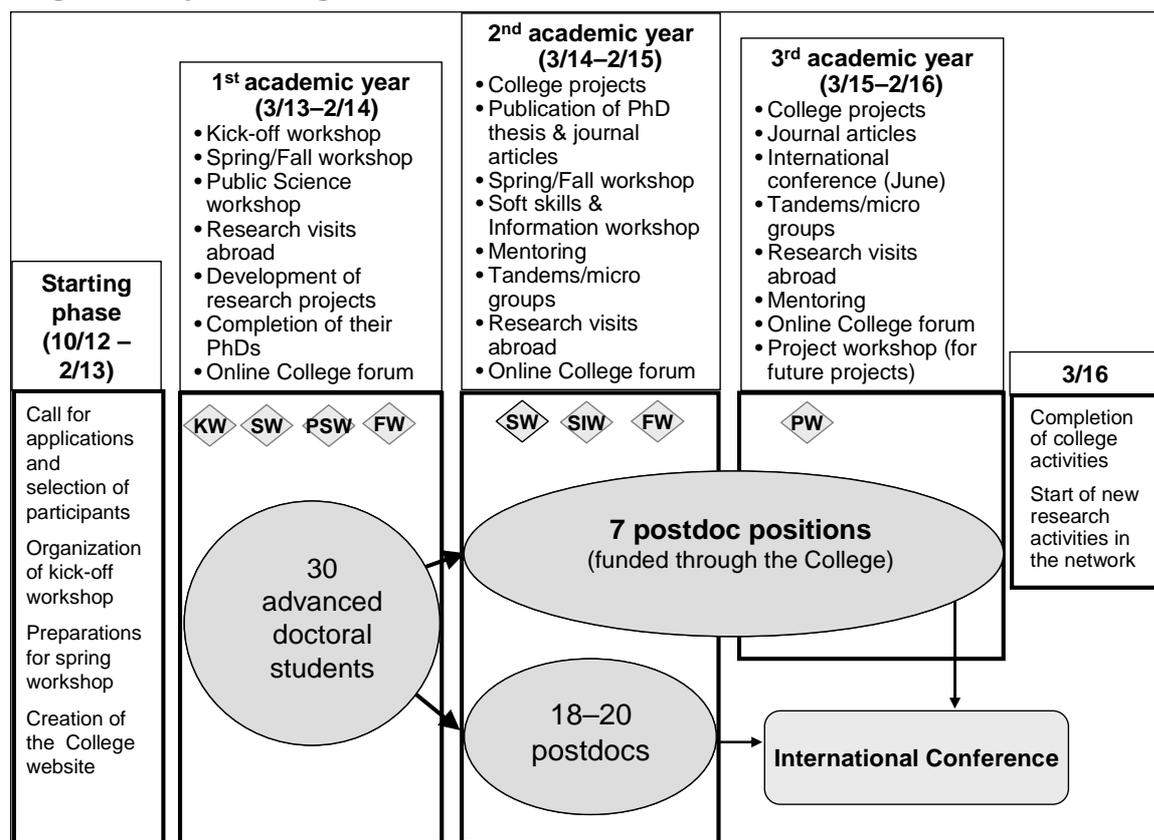
In November 2013, participating young researchers will submit their research projects and compete for funding for these projects, which will be provided in the form of seven two-year postdoctoral positions by the College. The postdoctoral positions will be two-year employment contracts – not fellowships. The seven research projects/postdoctoral positions will be hosted by the six Leibniz Institutes in strong collaboration with the participating university researchers. Projects have to be carried out in collaboration with a scholar from a different discipline (based at one of the participating Leibniz Institutes, the participating universities, or at one of the College’s international partners). In addition to the seven postdoc positions funded through the College, a second year of support will also be granted to the remaining 18-20 participants out of the initial pool of 30 participants.

Additional to the spring (SW) and the fall workshops (FW), there will be a public science workshop in July 2013, where fellows learn to improve their awareness on and acknowledgement of the value of doing problem-oriented research and to present research findings to the “public”.

The **second year** of the College will be devoted to the College’s research projects, tandems and micro work groups, and research visits abroad and to preparing publications. This will be supported by a theory and a method workshop. In addition, as a career development opportunity, the College will organize a workshop on soft skills and funding opportunities for young researchers.

The **third year** of the College will be devoted to the continuation of the College’s research projects and to preparing additional publications. Moreover, the College will host a project workshop for its young researchers to discuss and receive support for their post-College research proposals. The research results of the College’s research projects and the latest research projects conducted by the participating senior researchers will be presented at the College’s International Conference in January 2016.

Programme of the College



KW = *kick-off workshop*

SW = *spring-workshops*

FW = *fall workshops*

PSW = *public science workshop*

SIW = *soft skills & information*

PW = *project workshop*

18th/19th March 2013, WZB

April 2013, DIPF

April 2014 ZEW/GESIS

21st-26th October 2013 DIW

October 2014 WZB

July 2013 WZB

2nd-4th July 2014 DIW

May 2015 IPN

Interdisciplinarity & Research Areas

The College uniquely combines efforts to promote young researchers' early independence with advanced theoretical and methodological training. Additionally, it aims at building sustainable structures of interdisciplinary collaboration, reinforced by the fact that young researchers and also senior researchers are encouraged to acquire solid knowledge and competencies in more than one discipline – competencies that are seen as a prerequisite for fruitful interdisciplinary collaborations and advances in knowledge. The College combines perspectives from educational science, psychology, sociology, and economics.

The projects will contribute to our knowledge in three research areas:

- Educational inequality and success against the odds
- Competence development as an educational and social process
- Returns to education.

The active participation of “established” researchers from the various disciplines in the College's activities will provide an outstanding setting for developing new and innovative research ideas in the field of interdisciplinary educational research as well as for building a sustainable research network.