The Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe invites applications for the following position:

**Junior Researcher / PhD Student (65% E 13 TV-H) “Urban Authenticity in Stettin/Szczecin”**

**Deadline: 23 March 2020**

The Junior Researcher / PhD Student will participate in the “Urban Authenticity in Stettin/Szczecin” project, headed by Christian Lotz at the Herder Institute. The project is part of the “Urban Authenticity: Creating, contesting, and visualizing the built heritage in European cities since the 1970s” initiative funded by the Leibniz Association and run by the Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space (Erkner), the Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History (Potsdam), the Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe (Marburg), and the Institute for Contemporary History Munich-Berlin.

The PhD project should start in May 2020. However, it is possible to begin the project some months later (the duration of the project is 36 months regardless of the start date). The salary for the position is based on 65% of Payment Category 13 of the Hessen Collective Wage Agreement (Tarifvertrag des Landes Hessen, approximately EUR 2,500 gross or EUR 1,600 net per month).

The initiative: “Authenticity” as the purportedly “original”, “pure”, or “true” character of persons, objects or practices has become a major public discourse, a powerful driver of heritage debates and cultural change and a key research issue in the humanities. From theatre and museums studies to heritage conservation and the historical sciences scholars dispute the ways in which authenticity indicates and triggers cultural change in modern societies. While there is a broad consensus among constructivist approaches that historical authenticity was and is always socially and culturally produced, and that there is no such thing as “the pure” or “the original” in terms of materiality, the case of built heritage seems to challenge this approach. Here strong academic and public controversies have emerged on the role and impact of materiality for authenticity.

Your project: You will examine debates about “authenticity” in Szczecin. Analysing sources in archives and libraries, you will identify and explore hotspots of the debate and a set of examples, such as particular town boroughs or buildings. The sources include textual and visual material (maps, photographs etc.). Based on this material, you examine the actors who take part in the debates about “authenticity” and the arguments they use. The links and exchanges between local, national and transnational debates are of particular interest. In the final year of the project, you will be expected to deliver a thesis of approximately 100,000 words in either German or English, as well as gain a PhD at JLU in Gießen, Germany. In order to gain a PhD at JLU, your German language skills should reach level B1 by the end of the project. The place of your employment is Marburg. Travel funds for research in archives and libraries are available.

Your skills: You must possess a Master’s degree in history or a related discipline. You should be familiar with the potentials and challenges of “Visual History”. Your English and German language skills need to be very strong, while you must be able to read Polish sources. Additionally, you should be a team player and open-minded about interdisciplinary debates.

Questions regarding this job announcement should be addressed to PD Dr. Christian Lotz by email to: christian.lotz@herder-institut.de

The Herder Institute perceives itself as a family-friendly environment. It seeks to achieve gender equality in the arts and humanities. Therefore, we explicitly encourage women to apply. Candidates who have children are welcome to apply. Applicants with disabilities who possess the necessary qualifications will be given preference.

Your application should include the following documents: a letter of motivation, curriculum vitae, certificates and a summary of your Master’s thesis (or another short text in English or German illustrating your qualifications, such as a recently published article or book chapter). We kindly ask you to submit your application electronically, in the form of a single PDF file only.

Please send your application in English or German no later than 23 March 2020 by email to: bewerbung@herder-institut.de