

BIGSSS – The Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences

invites applications to participate in its summer school

### **Social Cohesion in a World of Increasing Diversity**

*Bremen, June 25 – July 1, 2017*

In 2017, the Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS) and Bertelsmann Stiftung jointly organize a summer school on “Social Cohesion in a World of Increasing Diversity.”

The summer school focuses on the interplay between social cohesion, on the one hand, and cultural, ethnic, and religious plurality, on the other, in times of societal transformations and increasing migration flows around the globe. Participants will have the opportunity to assess and discuss the impact of socio-structural, institutional, political as well as individual factors on social cohesion at different levels of societal organization. Next to the question as to what promotes social cohesion, the summer school pays equal attention to the importance of cohesion for the well-being of social entities and individuals both in the OECD World and the Global South in light of key indicators.

The aim of the BIGSSS summer school program is to support early stage social scientists by opening a cross-border dialogue on theoretical questions and methodological approaches to current matters of social science research. Participants experience a stimulating scientific environment that offers them the opportunity to actively engage in discussions with a multidisciplinary international and Bremen faculty as well as other MA and PhD students working on similar issues.

BIGSSS organizes summer schools on highly relevant research topics related to one of the school’s three thematic fields. In the past, BIGSSS summer schools have been co-funded by renowned partners such as the Volkswagen Foundation, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and the Mercator Foundation. BIGSSS summer schools have always featured prolific keynote speakers and will also do so in 2017. Suggestions by potential participants are still welcome.

#### **What to expect?**

The summer school on “Social Cohesion” will take place in Bremen from June 25 to July 1, 2017. The working language is English.

The seven-day program consists of:

- presentations by international experts
- discussion of conceptual and methodological issues
- presentations and discussion of participants’ own projects

Daily sessions are supervised by renowned international scholars who will also participate in the program (confirmed: Jan Delhey, Jan Germen Janmaat, Peter Schmidt, Claire Wallace; please consult regularly the summer school website for a list of confirmed experts). Thus participants will experience a stimulating scientific environment providing them with the opportunity to closely discuss and work with a multidisciplinary international and Bremen faculty as well as other MA and PhD students working on similar issues.

### **Who can apply?**

The summer school is targeted at MA and early PhD students from universities around the world with a social science background who work on questions closely related to topics of social cohesion. Applicants must have experience with advanced quantitative methods. However, applicants who have this experience are welcome to also apply with project sketches that encompass qualitative and mixed-methods approaches.

### **How to apply?**

For guidelines on how to apply visit our website at <https://summerschool.bigsss-bremen.de>

The application deadline is February 15, 2017.

Submissions require a letter of motivation, a current CV, a statement on methods experience, a project sketch, and comprehensive contact details of two academics, who would be willing to write a reference letter for shortlisted applicants.

### **Funding**

There is no program fee. Board, lodging and support with travel costs are included for all accepted participants of the summer school. Travel assistance is offered as a refund against receipts and proof of payment. With the prospective letter of admission, successful applicants will be informed about the maximum travel assistance they are offered.