



Sächsische Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Leipzig

Job Advertisement

The Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Leipzig is seeking to fill the following position as soon as possible as part of the project *Archivum Alevicum: Ethnohistory of Alevi Communities in Anatolia, 16th–20th Century*:

Research associate (m/f/d) [position 02]

The project will reconstruct the only scarcely explored ethnohistory of the Alevis in Anatolia, focusing on the period from the 16th to the 20th century. It will examine settlement dynamics and the processes of community-building among Alevi groups, as well as their complex relationships with the state, Sunni Muslims, and non-Muslims. By innovatively combining a range of methods based on previously unconnected sources—including Ottoman archives, Alevi manuscripts, oral traditions, and material culture—a comprehensive virtual research environment will be developed. This environment will enable the reconstruction of the development of Alevi communities within the context of Ottoman social and religious history from the Early Modern Period to the Modern Era.

The position is initially limited to two years, with the prospect of continued employment for the duration of the project.

Scope of work: Full-time 100% (part-time generally possible)

Salary level: TV-L E 13

Place of work: Leipzig (mobile working possible on a daily basis by arrangement)

Your Responsibilities

- addressing systematic ethnohistorical research questions, in particular concerning a) the relationships between Alevi groups and between Alevi groups and various non-Alevi groups and individuals, and b) the dynamics of Alevi community-building
- ethnographic research (especially documentation of oral histories and oral traditions) and historical-philological work with scripturalised knowledge from Alevi communities, publications by non-professionals and ethnographic studies (especially from the 20th to 21st centuries) as well as historical sources (especially from the 16th to 20th centuries)
- systematic collection of ethnohistorical data on Alevi settlements and groups as well as related villages, groups, individuals, etc.
- entering data into the virtual research environment
- translating, commenting on, and analysing data
- instructing student assistants in the collection and entry of data
- collaborating in the conception, writing, and editorial supervision of joint publications
- producing your own publications in the context of the project (working papers and journal articles; if employment is continued, also monographs)
- possibly, co-supervision of qualification theses

Your Profile

- PhD in Ottoman Studies, Turkish Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, Islamic Studies, Religious Studies, or a related discipline (habilitation possible in the context of the project)
- comprehensive proficiency in modern Turkish

- experience with social science research methods, especially field research
- interest in Ottoman social and religious history

Furthermore, the following skills are desirable

- good conversational English skills
- familiarity with ethnohistorical research questions
- familiarity with research on Alevi and related religious traditions
- communication skills and willingness to work in a team
- additional language skills, e.g., Kurdish, Armenian, Arabic, Ottoman Turkish, Russian, French
- experience in research data management and methods of Digital Humanities

Severely disabled and disabled applicants with the same status will receive preference over equally qualified non-disabled applicants.

Please send your application with the usual documents (cover letter, CV, list of publications, copies of certificates) and the job number to the Secretary General of SAW, Dr. Christian Winter, by November 30, 2025, at the latest. Email: bewerbung@saw-leipzig.de (please combine all documents into a single PDF file).

This job advertisement is subject to the approval of funding in the Academies' Programme 2026.

Data protection

The protection of personal data is a top priority for the Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Leipzig. The personal data you provide will be used exclusively for the selection process. Personal data will not be used for any other purposes. Your application will be stored internally until the selection process is complete. It will not be passed on to third parties.