

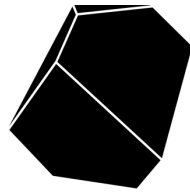


Universität Hamburg

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

## Call: 2 Junior Fellowships CAS »Imaginarien der Kraft«

The CAS »Imaginarien der Kraft / Imaginaria of Force« is awarding 1 Junior Fellowship in the summer term 2024 and 1 Junior Fellowship in the winter term 2024/25, each for the duration of 6 months:



## Imaginarien der Kraft

### Application requirement:

The call is addressed to advanced PhD students and postdoctoral researchers in the field of literary studies. A prerequisite for an application is a research project related to notions and discourses of force/power.

### Subject area of the call:

Hardly any field of cultural reflection can do without conceptualizations of force. Conceptions of religious or magical (creative force, magic powers), human (*vis animae*, impulse, willpower), political (*kratos*, *potestas*, power, rule, charisma), physical (gravity, attraction, energy), biological (procreative force, vital force, formative force), physiological (muscular force, perceptive force) or socioeconomic (labor force, buying power) forces refer to the dominance as well as to the plasticity of the concept of force and its derivatives. Since antique poetics and rhetoric, transmitted via the art and poetry doctrines of the Early Modern period, the arts in particular have strikingly often developed their performance profile with reference to the doctrines of force (creative force, imaginative force, *movere*). It is therefore all the more astonishing that the transitions and transfers between uses of the concept of force in the natural sciences, cultural studies, and the arts have hardly been investigated systematically. The aim of the CAS "Imaginaria of Force" is, to bring together a variety of disciplinary approaches to concepts of force and force-related concepts, in order to explore their emergence and transformations in the arts. Starting point is the observation that the term 'force' (Greek *dynamis*, Latin *potentia*) denotes the ability to exert effects, but that forces themselves are not perceivable. They can only be detected indirectly by their effects. The arts and reflections on them, so a guiding thesis, constitute a privileged site of engagement with the sensory presence effects of non-sensory forces.

While the first funding phase (2019-2023) focused on the transitions between natural philosophy, natural science, and aesthetics, the second funding phase of the CAS (2023-2027) will set three new focal points. In the study of aesthetic forces, the focus is on 1) their affinity to



the unquantifiable forces of the numinous, 2) the relationship between European and non-European concepts of force, and 3) the creative, artistic, and literary explorations of historical and contemporary practices of energy production and the energy landscapes that result from them.

The summer term 2024 is especially dedicated to the annual theme "**Latency**". Particular ideas of numinous causes and agents (God's grace, astrological constellations, demonic inspiration, etc.) are attached to the reflection on seemingly dormant forces pushing for shaping and effect. Latency as a problem of that which has not (yet) entered into manifestation also concerns the question of limited observability of anthropogenic transformations of nature. In the scope of the annual theme "**Resistance**" beginning in the winter term 2024/25, we explore resistance as a force that is not only important for a natural philosophy and metaphysics of antagonisms (actio - reactio), but also for the description of political dynamics between rule respectively action and resistance or reaction, as well as, above all, for a conceptualization of artistic 'resistances' (such as those of materials or production environments).

### **We offer:**

- Junior Fellowship for the duration of 6 months (summer term 2024: 01.04.2024–30.09.2024 / winter term 2024/25: 01.10.2024–31.03.2025)
- The amount of the stipend corresponds to the rates of the German Research Foundation (DFG) respectively AvH.
- travel expenses for a single round trip to and from Hamburg
- a fully equipped workplace in the representative premises of the CAS »Imaginarien der Kraft« located close to the city centre
- library service

### **We expect:**

- regular, active participation in weekly discussions and project presentations of the CAS as well as a presentation of one's own research project

Further information on the CAS "Imaginaria of Force" can be obtained from the website:

<https://www.imaginarien-der-kraft.uni-hamburg.de/>

### **Application documents:**

- Cover letter
- CV
- List of publications
- Outline of a research proposal with distinct reference to the topics of the CAS, preferably to the following annual themes (Summer Term 2024: Latency, Winter Term 24/25: Resistance).
- Sample text
- References



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For queries and more detailed information, please contact Dr. Caroline Herfert:

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**Please send your application by e-mail (in a single PDF file) by November 30, 2023 to:**

[imaginarien.der.kraft@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:imaginarien.der.kraft@uni-hamburg.de)

**Contact:**

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