IMPRS PhD Retreat

Date: 02. - 04. June 2020
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Summary: The Max Planck Gesellschaft is undoubtedly one of the most successful and famous scientific institutions in Germany. This success is due not only to the groundbreaking research produced, but also to the role of Max Planck Institutes in the education of young scientists. With research-specific education in our Institute covered at the department, or even research group level, however, institute-wide education opportunities are scarce, especially concerning broadly applicable research skills. Moreover, despite the obvious overlaps and interdisciplinary relevance of the research conducted in the different departments, there are only few opportunities for collaborations across departments, especially for young scientists. In order to improve the skillset of MPI EVAs PhD students as well as to offer a common ground for starting interdisciplinary projects, the PhD representatives are planning a three days long retreat to the Harnack guesthouse of the Max Planck Society in Berlin. This retreat is aimed especially but not exclusively at early PhD students (1st, 2nd year), up to about 25 participants. The program of the retreat will alternate between scientific and practical talks from MPI-internal speakers, as well as short presentations from students. It aims to produce a piece of collaborative work for possible institute-wide projects across departments. Practical talks given by senior scientists from the four departments will cover science communication, open science and other good research practice, preparing the ground and giving instruments for the project. Networking, and the development of this skill will be possible during discussions following the talks as well as during a special interdepartmental panel discussion. This will be pivoting on the concept of ‘Population’, how this term is defined and differently studied across disciplines and how it has been historically instrumentalized for political agendas. Especially in light of the history of biological sciences of the Max Planck Society, formerly the Kaiser Wilhelm Society, PhD students in evolutionary biology should be made aware of their responsibilities.
**Tuesday, 2nd June**

08:00   Opening: Departure from institute

12:00   Arrival in Berlin and check in

12:30   Lunch

13:30   Talk
        The historical ‘problems’ of German biological and anthropological science

14:00   Discussion-Panel
        The definition of populations across the disciplines

15:00   Coffee Break

15:30   PhD student presentations

17:30   Group discussions to set the start of the interdisciplinary projects

18:30   Dinner

19:30   Group discussions to set the start of the interdisciplinary projects

**Wednesday, 3rd June**

08:00   Breakfast

09:30   Practical-Session
        Writing a grant proposal for the interdisciplinary project

12:30   Lunch

13:30   Practical-session
        Designing and planning an interdisciplinary project in evolutionary anthropology

14:30   Coffee Break

15:00   Dahlem Tour by the Harnack House

16:30   Practical-Session
        Organizing the workflow in collaborative interdisciplinary project

17:30   Time to work on interdisciplinary projects

18:30   BBQ

19:30   Post colloquium discussions
Thursday, 4th June

08:00  Breakfast
09:30  Practical-Session
       Teaching evolutionary science
11:00  Work on the presentation for the interdisciplinary projects
12:30  Lunch
13:30  Presentation of the interdisciplinary projects, discussion etc.
15:30  Departure
18:30  Arrival at institute