



Universität Hamburg

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG



RESEARCH ASSOCIATE FOR THE PROJECT “THE HIDDEN WEAPON. BLOCKADE IN THE ERA OF THE TWO WORLD WARS (BLOCKADE)” EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL PROJECT § 28 SUBSECTION 3 HMBHG (2 POSITIONS)

Institution: Faculty of Humanities, Department of History

Salary level: EGR. 13 TV-L

Start date: 01.09.2025 or as soon as possible thereafter, fixed for a period of four years (This is a fixed-term contract in accordance with Section 2 of the academic fixed-term labor contract act [Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz, WissZeitVG]).

Application deadline: 2025-07-09

Scope of work: part-time

Weekly hours: 65 % of standard work hours per week

Your responsibilities

Duties include academic services in the project named above. Research associates may also pursue independent research and further academic qualifications. They may also pursue doctoral studies outside of working duties.

- actively participate in the research and outreach activities of BLOCKADE
- contribute to the research and financial reporting to the funding body
- actively participate in the project's workshops, seminars and conferences as well as in organizing and hosting those events taking place in Hamburg.
- contribute to data collection (qualitative and quantitative primary sources) for the central database located in Amsterdam

BLOCKADE (ERC Synergy Grant #101166983) explores the blockades in the era of the First and Second World Wars, including their preparation and their aftermaths. In these total wars, the Allies imposed a global blockade on their enemies, and the Central and Axis powers responded with blockades of their own. Over a period of six years, the BLOCKADE team, based in Trondheim, Hamburg, Amsterdam and Freiburg, will analyse the impact of blockades on households, states, corporations and the international order; on the development of political and military strategy; on how the wars were prepared, experienced and remembered; and on how peace was made. BLOCKADE sets out to prove that these blockades are crucial to understanding not only the way the world wars were fought but also their globality and totality, their immediate effects and their long-term global repercussions. More information can be found on the project website www.blockades.eu.

The two PhD researchers will focus within the research dimension ‘Globalisation, Strategy and Violence’ on one of two work-packages from the theme ‘Resistance//Vulnerability’. These work packages are two of five positions across the four BLOCKADE locations that will investigate the themes of resilience and vulnerability, that is, exploring the impact of blockades on economic, strategic and social vulnerabilities and the corresponding ability of societies and individuals to prepare for or adapt to shocks caused by blockade from different angles.

1. *Strategy: Decision-making in Europe*. This work-package will determine how decision-makers learned from the blockades of the First World War and adapted to new strategic situations. This includes identifying the vulnerabilities of the enemy prior to 1939 and responding to the perceived (in)vulnerabilities during the war. The WP will focus on preparations for and the execution of the largely forgotten Allied blockade of Axis Europe, 1939-1945. It will assess the British and American perceptions of the blockade’s effectiveness on Germany and/or Italy, and consequent policy shifts.
2. *The Colonial and Imperial Context of Blockade*. This work-package will focus on the involvement of sub-Saharan Africa in blockade in the Second World War. It will investigate British imperial policy, which necessitated naval and aerial patrols of vast areas of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans to implement blockade on the Axis, secure communications with and supplies from Africa, the Middle East and Asia (such as oil and rubber), and defend against submarine raids on merchant shipping. The WP will determine the specific resilience as well as unique vulnerabilities that arose in colonial and imperial contexts.

Your profile

A university degree in a relevant field.

- master’s degree in modern history or a closely related discipline
- solid knowledge of European and/or international history in the period 1914-1945
- experience in using archive sources
- excellent oral and written presentation skills in English (equivalent to level C1)
- where appropriate excellent reading skills in the languages of the countries to be examined (equivalent to level B2)
- experience in dealing with archival sources
- ability to cooperate internationally

We offer



Reliable remuneration based on wage agreements



Continuing education opportunities



University pensions



Attractive location



Flexible working hours



Work-life balance opportunities



Health management, EGYM Wellpass



Educational leave



30 days of vacation per annum

Universität Hamburg—University of Excellence is one of the strongest research educational institutions in Germany. Our work in research, teaching, educational and knowledge exchange activities is fostering the next generation of responsible global citizens ready to tackle the global challenges facing us. Our guiding principle “Innovating and Cooperating for a Sustainable Future in a digital age” drives collaboration with academic and nonacademic partner institutions in the Hamburg Metropolitan Region and around the world. We would like to invite you to be part of our community to work with us in creating sustainable and digital change for a dynamic and pluralist society.

The University of Hamburg is committed to equity. Diversity enriches our university life, whether in our studies, research, teaching, education, or workplace. We therefore welcome all applications, regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnic or social background, age, religion or belief, disability, or chronic illness.

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

Instructions for applying

Contact

Prof. Dr. Alan Kramer
alan.kramer@uni-hamburg.de

Location

Von-Melle-Park 6
20146 Hamburg
[Zu Google Maps](#)

Reference number

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Application deadline

2025-07-09

Use only the online application form to submit your application with the following documents:

- a letter of motivation detailing your prior experience and explaining why you want to work on this project
- a research plan for your proposed doctoral thesis, including select bibliography (max. 1500 words); it should address aspects of the project that you are particularly interested to develop
- a full academic CV
- one sample of your written work, published or unpublished (e.g. a section of your MA dissertation, max. 8,000 words)
- name and contact details of two referees to be contacted for references

If you experience technical problems, send an email to bewerbungen@uni-hamburg.de.
More information on [data protection](#) in selection procedures.