

GRASSI Museum für Völkerkunde zu Leipzig · Johannisplatz 5-11 · 04103 Leipzig

Internship

As part of the project „Curating Socialist Environments“, the Grassi Museum für Völkerkunde zu Leipzig offers students of anthropology an internship during which candidates could conduct research on post-colonial initiatives in Leipzig. You may also use the data from your research to write a BA or MA thesis.

Your tasks:

The Internship will be credited towards your study program and can extend over a longer period of one or two semesters (10 ECTS = 300h in total). During that time, you will conduct research on postcolonial initiatives by the GDR, or East Germany – from 1948 to 1990 – taking socialist ideology, policies and institutions into account. The main focus will be on the study of relations between the city of Leipzig with different (post)colonial states in Africa and the Pacific. You will conduct research on urban space (monuments, architectural sites, and streetscapes) and in archives (Institute of Anthropology, University Leipzig, and City of Leipzig), conduct interviews with people who have been involved or remember these initiatives, and document your findings. Collective work in smaller groups is explicitly desired.

Your profile:

- You are currently enrolled at the University of Leipzig in the BA or MA Anthropology program
- You have language skills in German and English
- You are interested in postcolonial topics, socialist history and urban aesthetics
- Please note that the internship is not paid

Project description: Curating Socialist Environments

This project sets out to study how environments become socialist through curational interventions. The 'environment', as defined here, encompasses material things, exhibitionary configurations, collections, households, architectural monuments, and urban landscapes; and 'curation' is understood in a broadened yet specific sense of attending to, or taking care of material environments. It functions as a method, again in a broadened yet specific sense, which is ideologically driven and (de)activates, (re)engages and (de)mobilises materials for experiences in relation to, and in dialogue with, environments. Curational interventions and the associated processes of selection, configuration and orchestration render an ideology such as socialism – usually understood as a discursive intervention – palpable in three-dimensional environments. The project asks in what ways are, or do become, environments 'socialist'? And in what ways do these environments become re-curated through a different ideological lens, such as neo-liberalism? How can the associated ideological re-writing be studied, not as an exclusively discursive affair, but as a process that is materially and spatially embedded and articulated, that is, inscribed in, and expressed through, material-spatial settings, such as urban landscapes, architectural monuments, and museums? And when/how do (formerly) socialist environments become heritage sites and travel destinations? To find answers, the project involves curators, artists, architects and urban anthropologists investigating (post)socialist environments in Germany, Bulgaria, Romania and Yugoslavia.

If you are interested, please send your **application until the end of March** to Dr. Philipp Schorch, Head of Research, GRASSI Museum für Völkerkunde zu Leipzig: Phillipp.Schorch@skd.museum