

Job requirements

W2-Professorship for Memory Cultures

Application deadline: May 03, 2026

The professorship is assigned to the research focus "[Cultural Memory in Crisis](#)" (DFG Research Impulse 115) at the Faculty of Cultural Sciences at the TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences.

Starting date: **at the earliest opportunity**

The general legal requirements in compliance with paragraph 36 of the North Rhine-Westphalia Higher Education Act (Hochschulgesetz – HG) are as follows:

1. University degree
2. Proven track record of teaching ability, or as an exception, the teaching ability is to be proven during the first year through a probation period.
3. Particular proficiency in scientific work, usually demonstrated by the quality of the doctorate.
4. Proven career experience in the application or development of academic findings and methods, gained during a minimum of five years of professional employment in a relevant field — at least three years of these five years must have been outside of a university environment.

If the applicant does not have private sector/non-university experience, then they must have a German *Habilitation* or additional equivalent academic qualifications (the postdoctoral qualification in Germany, which entitles the person to research at an expert level and teach his or her academic subject(s) at university). To prove that the applicant has such an equivalent qualification, a professor's report/recommendation, which shows the applicant's competence, is to be enclosed with the application. Said professor must be from a university, or from a university of applied sciences (HAW) and in the latter case the professor must have a *Habilitation*. The applicant may also provide evidence of a positively evaluated junior professorship.

Professional, didactic and methodical profile:

Candidates hold a university degree in the humanities or cultural studies/sciences and/or in the disciplines of architecture or design, and have an outstanding academic qualification documented by a doctorate in the aforementioned fields awarded with the grade "very good" ("summa cum laude" or "magna cum laude"). Candidates have ideally focused on memory studies or related fields in their research. In addition, they are able to present relevant research and teaching experience at a university, university of applied sciences, or another research or cultural institution.

Due to the complexity of the academic field and its continuous development, the professorship position requires a high level of scholarly achievement and qualification, with a strong emphasis on basic research. Candidates are expected to be recognised experts in the above-mentioned fields. They are able to integrate cultural studies/sciences and design disciplines and pursue both experimental and praxeological theoretical approaches.

The requirement of professional experience outside of higher education institutions may only be waived in exceptional cases where additional academic achievements are demonstrated. Of the total five years of professional experience required, three years must have been completed outside the higher education sector; alternatively, this requirement may be fulfilled by an expert report certifying achievements equivalent to a *Habilitation*—likewise, a completed *Habilitation* is considered sufficient. The expert report must be issued by a university professor or a habilitated professor at a university of applied sciences. A positive interim evaluation of a junior professorship is also recognised as proof. The position requires the ability to teach in German and English. Therefore, very good

Questions on the recruitment process to:

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Position-related questions to:

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proficiency in German and English is expected. Alternatively, candidates should be willing to acquire such proficiency during the initial period of employment.

Professional competence

We are seeking a distinguished and visionary personality with a convincing academic profile in the field of memory studies, as well as extensive experience in inter- and transdisciplinary research and teaching. Candidates possess in-depth knowledge of current debates in cultural studies/sciences on topics such as memory, crisis, temporality, inequality, intersectionality, post-coloniality, and/or globality. In addition, they bring comprehensive expertise in the analysis of artefacts, media, and materialities, particularly in the fields of art, the city, architecture, and/or digital environments. This includes the ability to analyse artefacts by incorporating perspectives from memory culture, aesthetics, and social practices and processes, while highlighting their plurality, construction, and dynamism.

The future professor is furthermore capable of familiarising students with current discourses in memory and crisis studies and ideally possesses the competence to develop participatory research approaches—especially in the field of design research—and to further advance them in both research and teaching. We require an openness to collaboration with cultural institutions in order to realign and innovatively shape research and teaching within the framework of transfer projects.

Research competence

We are seeking candidates that have a clear understanding of the significance of basic research at a university of applied sciences. The future professor possesses extensive expertise in transdisciplinary cultural-theoretical research, particularly in the field of memory studies. Candidates are capable of developing innovative forms of knowledge and methodologies that transcend disciplinary boundaries in order to generate new insights, foster critical thinking, and advance transformative approaches to societal challenges. Subject-specific publications and conference presentations are expected, preferably on topics in memory studies, as well as experience in organising academic conferences — ideally acquired during a postdoctoral phase at universities of applied sciences, universities, or other research institutions. In addition, the position requires the competence and motivation to independently conceptualise and realise a substantial scholarly work or second book project.

The future professor is also expected to actively shape knowledge production through practice-oriented and participatory research approaches. In addition, the position requires the ability and motivation to independently conceptualise and complete a further scholarly work or book project. Experience in (transdisciplinary) collaboration within joint research projects is likewise desirable.

International competence

Candidates are able to identify, critically assess, and engage with current international developments in the field in order to provide innovative impulses in memory studies. Furthermore, they possess the competence to evaluate the potential of collaborations and to initiate and lead international and interdisciplinary research projects. They also bring experience in establishing and further developing international academic networks — particularly in the context of conferences and book publications. In doing so, a sensitive and reflective approach to cultural differences is expected. Very good proficiency in English is required, as research and teaching will also be conducted in English. Non-native speakers should have at least good proficiency in German.

Didactic competence/communication skills

The TH Köln and the participating faculties attach particular importance to high-quality teaching. The degree programmes are structured in a project-oriented manner. Problem-based research-oriented learning as well as blended learning scenarios are integral components of everyday academic life. The professor is expected to engage in competence-oriented teaching, as well as the ability to design activating learning arrangements and to connect theory and practice in order to foster learning processes and support students in their personal development. Pedagogical aptitude and motivation to

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convey scholarly knowledge are also required, ideally evidenced by relevant teaching experience at higher education institutions. Candidates are distinguished by attentive listening, the ability to take up and further develop arguments, and by respectful and empathetic communication.

Management competence

The future professor possesses strong management competencies that enable them to independently initiate and successfully implement large-scale research projects, as well as to responsibly assume leadership roles within academic self-governance. In addition, we expect an interest in the further development of degree programmes and in contributing to academic committees. These management skills also serve to ensure confident supervision and support of a diverse group of students from different programmes and disciplines within the participating faculties. Furthermore, managerial competence includes the ability to comprehensively plan, coordinate, and successfully conduct major academic events such as international, interdisciplinary conferences and related publications.

Social skills

We are seeking a personality who actively cultivates social relationships, operates cooperatively, collaboratively, and reliably within a positive working environment, and demonstrates empathy toward others. We require strong teamwork skills, motivation, communication and conflict-resolution abilities, as well as a willingness to engage in constructive collaboration with internal and external partners. The future professor must be able to establish and maintain informational and professional networks, particularly in cross-faculty and cross-disciplinary contexts. Ideally, these competencies are reflected in the candidates' interdisciplinary research and teaching, collaborations with external institutions, references and letters of recommendation, or through committed participation in working groups.

Other competencies

We expect a strong commitment to continuous professional and personal development, as well as the ability to engage in constructive self-reflection and to handle criticism openly. Candidates demonstrate these competencies through their previous academic career, voluntary professional development activities, and, within the appointment procedure, through a trial lecture and a structured job interview. In addition, we expect a proactive attitude that fosters independent learning and the continuous further-development of the professor's competencies.

With the advertisement of this position and the publication of the requirement profile, the TH Köln specifies which competencies must exist to successfully fulfil the tasks of the professorship at the TH Köln. Depending on the focus of the professorship, these competencies are weighted and checked in the selection procedure. The pre-selection is based on the written application documents. The necessary competencies of the shortlisted candidates will be determined in a lecture, a scientific presentation and a structured interview. The personal introduction is completed by an interview with a personnel psychologist. In case you are shortlisted and invited to a personal interview, you will be asked to submit a written teaching and research concept in advance. You will receive more detailed information with the invitation to the lecture, the scientific presentation, and the structured interview.

Please note the [application information](#) at the end of the requirement profile.

Additional information

Place of residence

You are expected to move/relocate to the city in which your campus is located/situated or its greater area.

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Remuneration

Under non-civil-servant conditions, professors are remunerated in accordance with the W2 remuneration scheme (the remuneration scale for North Rhine-Westphalia as well as information on the family supplement are available on the website of the North Rhine-Westphalia State Office for Salaries and Pensions – LBV NRW – at www.lbv.nrw.de). In addition to the family supplement, the remuneration provisions allow for other benefits (performance-related benefits), in particular benefits related to the appointment as well as benefits granted on the grounds of extraordinary contributions or for securing third-party funding for research purposes. The Provisions on Performance-related Benefits at Universities in North Rhine-Westphalia are in accordance with the law (Hochschul-Leistungsbezügeverordnung – HLeistBVO) of December 17, 2004. Additionally, Cologne University of Applied Sciences has introduced individual regulations in its guidelines on W2-remuneration. Detailed information on the W2-remuneration bracket is available here: th-koeln.de/besoldung

Employment in a fixed-term private-law contractual relationship (privatrechtliches Dienstverhältnis)

The appointment is made within a fixed-term private-law employment relationship. If the candidate meets the requirements, appointment to a temporary civil servant status may be also possible. The TH Köln will determine eligibility for such status on a case-by-case basis.

Additional employment

Full-time professorship: additional employment of up to eight hours per week may be authorised in compliance with the legal regulations for North Rhine-Westphalia (thus permitting work in positions of practical relevance). If you work on a freelance basis with your own office, then this is subject to specific conditions as laid down in the legal stipulations on additional employment for university personnel.

Application information

Please apply via our application management system. Go back to the [job advertisement](#) and click here:

[Apply here](#)

Here we ask you for the personal data relevant for the processing of the application and to upload the following documents (maximum file size 10 MB per file):

- Cover letter
- Photo (optional)
- CV, including a list of publications and lectures, as well as a list of courses taught
Please list your periods of work experience inside and outside the university in **tabular form** and **give the year and month of each period**. In the case of parallel employment, please indicate the percentage of working time if possible. The times starting with the first university degree are counted.
- Certificates (max. 5 files)
 - University certificates
 - Job references or activity reports to prove periods of work experience from the first university degree onwards
 - Certified translations in German or English for foreign certificates
- Other documents
 - Project portfolio, if applicable

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