



The **Historisches Institut** is offering a part-time position as

## Academic Employee (m/f/d) (65%)

starting on 1 June 2024.

The Junior Professor for the Economic History of the Middle Ages is searching for an academic employee to work on the project, Political, Economic and Social Networks in the Late Medieval Village.

In a largely agricultural economy, the vast majority of the political, social and economic activities of most medieval people occurred within village communities. However, there is significant debate about the actual nature of such communities. Were villages characterised by strong communal ties which overrode social and economic differences, or hierarchies with an oligarchy of dominant elites? Were familial bonds crucial to economic and social activities, or were villagers highly individualistic? And how far did the Black Death reconfigure village community networks?

The project Political, Economic and Social Networks in the Late Medieval Village will examine these questions by applying cutting-edge methods from Social Network Analysis (SNA) to the rich manuscript documentation available for medieval English villages in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. In doing so, it will give a new perspective on economic and social life in the pre-industrial era, providing insights into the impact of the Black Death, the factors which drive inequality, and the degree to which capitalistic economies marked by impersonal exchange emerged in the late Middle Ages.

This project is generously funded by the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung through the Postdoctoral fellowship for leading early career researchers.

Application materials: CV, degree transcripts and a covering letter explaining your interest in this position and why your experiences meet the job profile.

### Your tasks include:

- Writing a doctoral thesis based on the project supervised by the Principal Investigator
- Co-writing academic publications with the Principal Investigator
- Carrying out a research stay in the United Kingdom (including visiting archives)
- Carrying out data entry and social network analysis for the project

The **University of Mannheim** is one of the leading universities in Germany with approximately 12,000 students in five schools. Particularly in business and economics as well as in the social sciences the university ranks among the top institutions both at national and international level. More than 2,600 employees profit from an exciting work environment with numerous benefits.

The **Historical Institute** of the University of Mannheim is a leading centre for research on a broad sweep of history stretching from ancient times to the late twentieth century. We are a supportive and inclusive community made up of student workers, doctoral candidates, postdoctoral researchers and professors. We organise a range of seminars including series in medieval and economic history as well as an annual lecture and excursion.

### Key information

**Start:** 1 June 2024

**Term:** 36 months (According to the requirements of Science Temporary Contract Act (WissZeitVG))

**Remuneration bracket:** E 13 TV-L BW

**Weekly hours:** 25.68 hours

**Location:**  
Historisches Institut (L7, 7) Mannheim

**Application deadline:**  
15 April 2024

- Presenting the project results at seminars and international conferences

#### Your profile:

- Bachelors and Masters degrees in history or a related discipline (e.g. historical sociology, economic history)
- Experience of working with late medieval English manorial court rolls (or a desire to learn how to work with these records)
- Experience of working with social network analysis techniques and software (or a desire to learn these skills)
- A strong command of English (the thesis will be written in English)

#### What we offer:

- A dedicated team of researchers and teachers both within the Historical Institute and wider university
- A supportive environment for research and career development
- Funding for conference attendance, research stays and training courses



Outstanding research  
culture



International  
orientation



Positive working  
atmosphere

Applications from persons with a disability (minimum 50 %) are given preferential consideration provided that they are appropriately qualified. The University of Mannheim is committed to increasing the quota of women and thus encourages women with appropriate qualifications to apply.

If you are interested in applying, please send your application documents via e-mail or mail **by 15 April 2024 at the latest:**

**Alex Spike Gibbs**  
**Juniorprofessor für Wirtschaftsgeschichte des Mittelalters**  
**Universität Mannheim**  
**Mannheim 68131**  
**Germany**  
**[alex.spike.gibbs@uni-mannheim.de](mailto:alex.spike.gibbs@uni-mannheim.de)**

If you have any questions about the position, please contact Dr Spike Gibbs at

[alex.spike.gibbs@uni-mannheim.de](mailto:alex.spike.gibbs@uni-mannheim.de)

#### Data protection

Please find detailed information on the collection of personal data from the data subject according to Article 13 GDPR on the university's homepage: [www.uni-mannheim.de/datenschutz-bei-bewerbungen](http://www.uni-mannheim.de/datenschutz-bei-bewerbungen).

Submitted application documents will only be returned if you enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Otherwise, they will be destroyed in accordance with current data protection law after the application procedure has ended. Electronic applications will be deleted accordingly..

If you apply by e-mail, please note that protection of confidential data cannot be guaranteed as unauthorized third parties might gain access to unencrypted e-mails during transmission.