UNIVERSITÄT BIELEFELD

Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology

Welcome Day 10 November 2026



Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology (BGHS)
Dr. Sabine Schäfer

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A few words about doing a PhD

- First phase of professional academic career leading to jobs inside and outside academia
- What it takes to succeed in academia:

  - Achievements

  - Support

  - The claim to a ‘place of one’s own’
- BGHS: 3 leading principles: interdisciplinarity, internationality, self-initiative
- BGHS: The more you take part, the more you get out of it.

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BGHS community (November 2026)

183 doctoral researchers:	49 in history, 134 in sociology
	56% female, 33% international
	15% scholarship holders, 55% academic staff, 12% non-academic employment, and 18% individually funded researchers
313 alumni since 2008	
50 professors:	20 in Department of History
	30 in Faculty of Sociology

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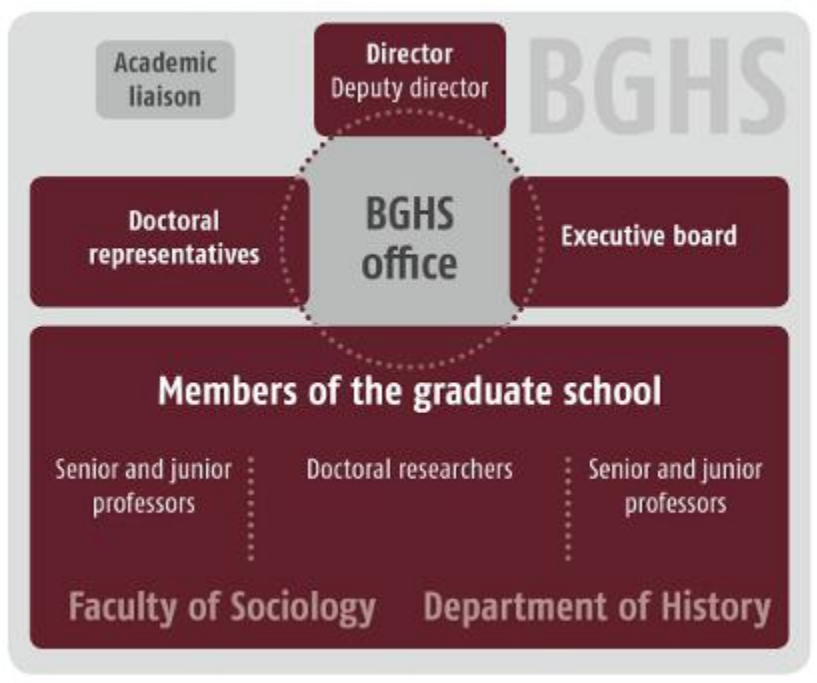
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BGHS structure

Ruth Ayaß *(director)*
Frank Grüner *(deputy director)*

Academic liasion
Hartmann Tyrell

Doctoral representatives
Anastasia Serikova
Olivia Whelan
Richard Höter
Paulina Arnal



BGHS office
Clara Buitrago
Nicole Käufler
Sabine Schäfer

Executive board
Anja Abendroth
Ruth Ayaß
Clara Buitrago
Frank Grüner
Udo Hagedorn (dean)
Peter Kramper
Martin Kroh
Teresa Malice
Christina Morina
Lisa Regazzoni
Leopold Ringel
Silke Schwandt (dean)
Anastasia Serikova
Tobias Werron
Olivia Whelan

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Communication & information

Weekly newsletter as central source of information

BGHS blog on website

“Chances and Challenges – The BGHS Podcast”

For study programme please see eKVV (electronic study programme)

For information about the BGHS please see https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/einrichtungen/bghs/

or contact us: bghs@uni-bielefeld.de

For information on the faculties please see:

Department of History
https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/fakultaeten/geschichtswissenschaft/index.xml

Contact:
Dr. Bettina Brandt
(bettina.brandt@uni-bielefeld.de)

Faculty of Sociology
https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/fakultaeten/soziologie/

Contact:
Astrid Dinter
(promotionsausschuss.soz@uni-bielefeld.de)

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Doctoral training programme

Supervision Agreement of doctoral researchers, supervisors and BGHS

Support in conflict situations: academic liaison Prof. Dr. Hartmann Tyrell or Dr. Sabine Schäfer

Annual progress reports (first report after 6 months)

Confirmations of attendance

“Transcript of the Doctoral Programme” after completion of study programme

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BGHS curriculum

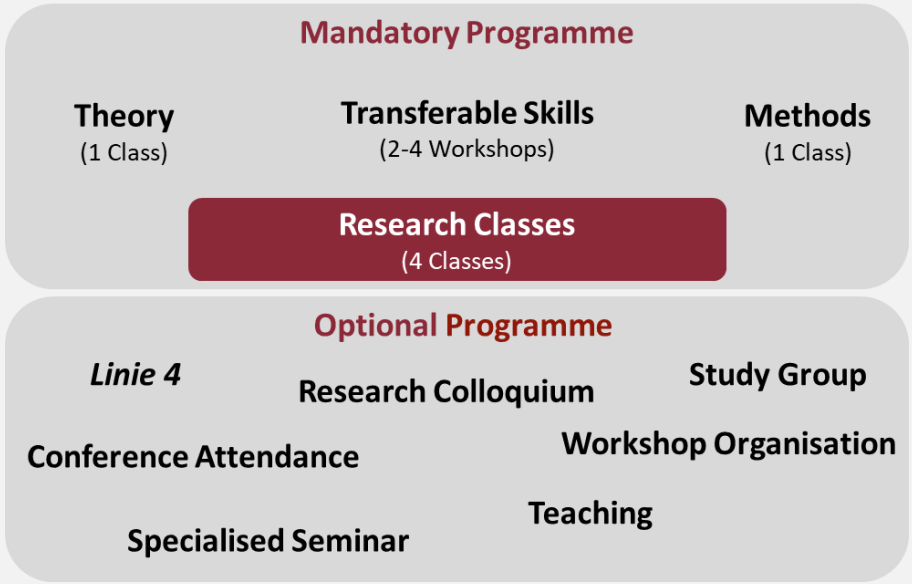
Mandatory programme: 6 CP

one Theory Class = 0.5 CP

two to four Transferable Skills Workshops = 1 CP (BGHS, PEP or other)

one Methods Class = 0.5 CP

four Research Classes = 4 CPs



Conference paper: 0.5 CP
Organising a workshop: 1 CP
Participation in a study group: 0.5-1 CP
Post as a doctoral representative: 0.5 CP

Colloquium with own paper: 1 CP
Colloquium without own paper: 0.5 CP
Research Retreat: 0.5 CP
Teaching a course of one's own: 0.5-1 CP

Optional programme: 4 CP

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Special BGHS features

Post as a doctoral researchers' representative

Research Retreat on 20/21 November at VHS Bielefeld

Organisation of a workshop (funding available)

Public lecture series “Linie 4” in May and June

BGHS YouTube channel: film series „Von Menschen und Dingen – Wissenschaft im Gespräch“

Working Paper Series

Advice on funding opportunities for international mobility and other things

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Welcome to the BGHS!