

The Central Women's Council of Freie Universität Berlin

Margherita von Brentano Prize

Information for Applications and Nominations

Editing:

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1. Objectives and Selection Criteria for the Margherita von Brentano Prize

1.1. Objectives

The prize was established in 1995 by the Academic Senate and the Board of Trustees of Freie Universität Berlin (FU). It was named in honour of the university's first female vice president, Margherita von Brentano, who had died in the same year. Von Brentano had addressed the situation of women at the university as early as the beginning of the 1960s.

The prize, worth 15,000 euros, is given in recognition of personal endeavour or excellent project work in the areas of women's advancement or gender studies. It is awarded to individuals or outstanding project groups that have (or have had) a formative effect in the context of higher education and academic work in respect of the advancement of women and the promotion of gender studies. This formulation is highly generalised so as to take into account the broad range of possible activities, both within and outside the university. In the field of gender studies, for example, both initiatives by students and by academic staff can be deemed worthy of an prize. Effective work within a discipline, or a long-term commitment to women's advancement or gender studies at the level of university policy, are as eligible for recognition as action to improve the situation of women at work, or the development of effective mechanisms for increasing the proportion of women in the next generation of academics or at senior levels of the administrative hierarchy. The prize may be awarded to individual members, groups, or organisational units of **any** status group, following a nomination or a personal application.

The prize aims to highlight particular people or projects in the areas of women's advancement and gender studies, to commend them publicly and by means of the prize money assist or enable their future activity at Freie Universität. In doing so, the university demonstrates that it attaches great importance to its statutory obligation to bring about genuine gender equality, in the sense of the active advancement of women and the strengthening of women's and gender studies.

1.2. Application Requirements

- Applicants for the Margherita von Brentano Prize of Freie Universität may be either individuals, groups, or organisational units.
- The prize money is to be spent within the scope of the winning project and in the context of Freie Universität.
- Individual applicants or nominees should be women. In the case of a group or unit, the majority of its members should be women. Members of all status groups are expressly encouraged to apply.
- Unsuccessful applications may be resubmitted, after revision, in subsequent rounds.

1.3. Eligible Forms of Project

1.3.1. Research projects in the area of gender studies

Recognition is given to current projects and initiatives of an innovative character in the area of women's and gender studies.

Eligible for the prize are, among others:

- activities in the field of the feminist critique of science
- research initiatives with new ideas in the field of gender studies
- analysis of material from the perspective of women's and gender studies.

1.3.2. Action in the area of gender studies

Recognition is given to current projects for developing and expanding research infrastructure in the area of women's and gender studies.

Eligible for the prize are, among others:

- conferences, workshops of an innovative character
- compiling documentation
- establishing research partnerships and networks
- cross-status initiatives for women's and gender studies

1.3.3. Action in the area of women's advancement

Recognition is given to current projects and initiatives for women's advancement in the institutional and political spheres.

Eligible for the prize are, among others:

- exceeding the targets of plans for women's advancement
- measures to improve the organisation of studies or the work situation for women
- measures to increase the proportion of women at senior levels of the administrative and academic hierarchies
- non-institutionalised projects for women's advancement at Freie Universität.

1.4. Selection Criteria

Prizeworthiness is judged with regard to the respective status group of candidates or nominees. The evaluation takes account of any professional or personal connection to Freie Universität.

1.4.1. Research projects in the area of gender studies

- the academic quality of the project, including methodological reflection and the demonstration of a relationship to the current state of research
- the importance of the project within the narrower subject area, for women's and gender studies at Freie Universität and beyond
- the applicability of the results in practice, if appropriate
- the quality of contact and the intensity of cooperation with the relevant institutions, projects and individuals at Freie Universität.

1.4.2. Action in the area of gender studies

- the innovative significance of the measure for the subject area and for women's and gender studies at Freie Universität
- the significance and impact of the project beyond Freie Universität
- the quality of contact and the intensity of cooperation with the relevant institutions and units at Freie Universität and outside
- the inter/transdisciplinary content of the measure

1.4.3. Action in the area of women's advancement

- current and innovative nature
- the significance and impact of the project on policies for women within Freie Universität
- the quality and extent of the anticipated/ existing outreach of the project
- the quality of contact and the intensity of cooperation with the relevant institutions and units at Freie Universität and outside
- the quantitative impact

2. Call for Applications and Selection Process

The application period lasts for several months. For the current dates, please enquire at the office of the Vice President responsible for gender equality, c/o the Executive Board, Kaiserswerther Strasse 16-18, 14195 Berlin, Germany, phone: +49 030 838 73140, or at the office of the Chief Gender Equality Officer, phone: +49 030 838 54259.

The Central Women's Council of Freie Universität, which consists of three members from each status group, acts as the selection committee. It makes a recommendation on the basis of the criteria mentioned above. The prize is awarded every two years by the President of Freie Universität.

The prize can be advertised with a particular emphasis on each occasion, to which the content of any application should relate. Such emphases are decided by the Central Women's Council of Freie Universität. The call for applications starts in autumn and is announced within Freie Universität and at its liaison offices.

3. Guidelines for Application

The letter of application/ nomination should not exceed 15 pages (excluding appendices).

The application must include the following information, under numbered headings:

1. Information about all participants in the project

Surname, first name, date of birth, home and (if applicable) work addresses and telephone numbers, academic degree, professional title or subject of study

2. Summary

Brief description of the project in around 15 lines: characterization of the project and its importance to the advancement of women or gender studies.

3. Presentation of the project

Precise explanation of the project including its origins, its conception, its activities and its importance to date for the advancement of women at Freie Universität and beyond.

4. Research status (only for projects pursuant to 1.3.1.)

Presentation of the relevant discussions and methodological reflection in the context of the project (no extensive bibliographic information).

5. Context

Description of the project's context within and outside Freie Universität, including information on collaborative partnerships.

6. Appendices, depending on the nature of the project

- documentation of activities in newspaper articles, posters, conference readers
- publication list
- assessments and reports
- statistics concerning the project's effect on the advancement of women

4. Use of the Prize Money

The prize money may be used for purposes such as:

- further research
- conferences/ workshops/ congresses and their documentation
- contracts for services
- exhibition material
- further training seminars.

Only in exceptional cases may the prize money be used as a contribution towards printing costs and even then only in part.