



## NTM Zeitschrift für Geschichte der Wissenschaften, Technik und Medizin

NTM Journal of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine

Call:

Contributions for the NTM Forum "From the Abolition of Academia. On the history and future of Junior Researchers in the History of Science, Medicine and Technology".

Over the past 40 years, the German university system has become increasingly oriented towards the doctrine of neoliberal New Public Management, whose highest goals are innovation and competition. Innovation, so the thinking goes, is the result of flexibility, and in practice this means that temporary employment in academia has become a fact of life. The oxymoron of a "permanent qualification phase" (*Dauerqualifizierungsphase*) has long since ceased to be rhetorical and has come to characterise the reality for those willing to do research.

The consequences are obvious: A sprawling, self-replicating system of applications that simulates research results instead of producing them and devours immense resources; a thoroughly flexibilized mid-level staff that writes applications instead of researching and teaching; a system that sows mistrust, when not outright promoting toxic structures; motivated researchers who, plagued by existential fears, finally turn their backs on their profession and are thus lost to science.

The intent to continue without this lost potential seems great. While Dieter Lenzen, for example, as "Hanno", recently painted a rosy picture of a bygone era and expressed his gratitude for the mechanisms of "psychosocial selection" (FAZ "Die Vergesellschaftung der Promotion," 13.09.2023), for other readers with a foot in the present, current conditions calls to mind the image of the Titanic, where the number of lifeboats is simply not enough for all the passengers.

The editors of NTM want to confront this reality and are calling for contributions to a forum that deals with this problem, especially within the fields of the history of science, medicine and technology. We plan to publish the forum in Issue 3/2024 in advance of the GWMT's 2024 annual conference with the theme "Science and Activism". The forum will consist of several shorter

contributions each with a length of 10,000-15,000 characters. We are of the opinion that our fields offer unique perspectives on the current discussion and invite controversial contributions to the discussion, reports on experiences, and interviews that include scientific, personal, political and/or historical perspectives.

Deadline for proposals: 15.10.2023

Deadline for contributions: 31.1.2024

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