An Exceptional Visionary

Philosopher and literary scholar Walter Benjamin (1892–1940) is one of the most renowned representatives of his disciplines in the 20th century. Despite a doctorate assessed as summa cum laude in 1919, he did not pursue a typical career path in academia. He withdrew his habilitation thesis as others judged the work as too unorthodox for the academic domain.

Today, Walter Benjamin is highly regarded for his visionary oeuvre including "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction", "On the Concept of History" and his work on Charles Baudelaire. During National Socialism in Germany, he fled from the Nazis and committed suicide in exile in 1940. The DFG programme bears the name of an open-minded, gifted intellectual with many interests who is famous for pushing boundaries.

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DFG Links

Additional information on the programme and the proposal process can be found on the DFG website at:
www.dfg.de/walter_benjamin/en

To find your DFG programme contact, please visit:
www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/head_office/structure/dfg_contacts

Walter Benjamin Programme
Starting Your Research Career
You have completed your doctorate and you would like to continue your career in research?
Right now, it is important that you have clear-cut plans and ideas for the next stages of your academic career. Mobility and the further development of your research are key elements for that endeavour.

If you are aiming at an academic career, the DFG’s Walter Benjamin Programme offers you excellent opportunities to develop an independent research profile with your own project at an early stage.

The funding provided by the Walter Benjamin Programme allows you to pursue your own independent research project at the location of your choice.

You can decide whether you choose a research institution in Germany or abroad. There is also the option to combine stays at different places. It is important that you select a host institution with the best setting for your research idea. As mobility is particularly important in the early postdoctoral phase, you should move on to another academic environment.

If your proposal for the Walter Benjamin Programme is successful, you can focus on your research topic and, where required, take advantage of support to prepare you for the next stages of your academic career.