



Call for Applications

Spring School for Doctoral Students and Emerging Researchers: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Equity and Community in Inclusive Education

14–19 April 2026 at the University of Koblenz, Germany

The Spring School is organized by University of Koblenz (Germany), University of Belgrade (Serbia), and University of Luxembourg (Luxembourg).

It provides a unique opportunity for PhD students and emerging researchers to engage in in-depth, critical discussions about current research in the field of inclusive education, with a special focus on equity and community. We aim to create a space for early-stage researchers to receive structured feedback, reflect on their work, and connect with peers working across disciplinary and national boundaries.

This Spring School welcomes both theoretical and empirical research and aims to foster interdisciplinary conversations that contribute to the development of inclusive education.

What Kind of Topics Are We Looking For?

We invite submissions that explore inclusive education through interdisciplinary lenses. Your research might touch on:

- Shifting paradigms in research on inclusive education: participation and power
- Communities of practice: how they are created, strengthened and maintained
- Academic activism: the role of researchers in promoting inclusion
- Higher education and research communities as inclusive spaces
- Decolonizing and deinstitutionalizing (inclusive) education: theory and practice
- Theories of justice, equality, equity, and difference in education
- ...

We welcome both theoretical and empirical papers. Papers may be single- or co-authored. If your work interrogates, reimagines, or supports inclusive education, it belongs here.

What Are the Aims of the Spring School?

- Provide a space for in-depth engagement with your and others' research
- Facilitate constructive feedback and peer learning across contexts
- Support interdisciplinary exchange and academic networking
- Encourage reflection on how research contributes to social change
- Discuss ideas for a special issue of the [European Journal of Inclusive Education](#) or some other journal



What Will the Spring School Look Like?

Each participant will:

- Participate in an online support session A) to discuss any questions regarding the state of papers and B) to answer any administrative questions
- Submit a full paper in advance of the Spring School
- Read and prepare feedback on a small number of peer papers
- Present a brief overview of their own paper during their session
- Participate in daily discussion sessions (3 x 60 minutes per day), with each session dedicated to one paper. Sessions will begin with the author's short recap, followed by a moderated group discussion focused on the paper's ideas, contributions, and questions
- In addition to research discussions, the program will include: community-building activities, opportunities for shared reflection on research and practice, and space for planning future collaborations, including the possibility of a joint publication

The spring school will be facilitated by

- **Olja Jovanović**, University of Belgrade (Serbia)
research focus: inclusive education, teacher education, marginalisation and education, inclusive communities, narrative research.
- **Thorsten Merl**, University of Koblenz (Germany)
research focus: difference, equality and equity in inclusive education; dis/ability; authorisations of inclusive and special education; authority and discipline in school.
- **Michelle Proyer**, University of Luxembourg (Luxembourg)
research focus: Inclusive (teacher) education, inclusive refugee education, academic activism, nexus disability and culture.

Who Can Apply?

The Spring School is open to PhD students and emerging researchers exploring themes of inclusive education, equity, and community, enrolled at:

- University of Koblenz (Germany)
- University of Belgrade (Serbia)
- University of Luxembourg (Luxembourg)

Is There a Fee for Participation in the Spring School?

- Since we are considering that knowledge should be freely available, there will be no participation fees. However, we want everyone to feel just as committed as if they had paid a fee.
- Participants from Serbia and Luxembourg are encouraged to check Erasmus+ mobility options at their universities (agreements between the three institutions are already in place) and other sources of funding.



- A limited number of bursaries will be available for University of Belgrade students without access to other funding.

How Do You Apply?

Step 1: Submit Your Application by 20 August 2025

Please submit:

- Your short CV (up to 2 pages, PDF)
- An extended abstract (max 1300 words + references, PDF)

Your abstract should include: Title, Author(s), affiliation(s), and email(s), Theoretical framework, aims and research questions (max 600 words), Methodology/methods (max 400 words), Results/Expected outcomes (max 300 words), Key references (max 400 words), 3–5 keywords

Step 2: Receive Decision and Feedback – 3 September 2025

We will invite 15–20 participants to submit the full paper. All applicants will receive feedback and notification of acceptance.

Step 3: Online support session – 3 December 2025, 4.30-6.00 PM

Step 4: Submit Full Paper – 10 February 2026

Prepare a draft of your paper using the submission guidelines of the European Journal of Inclusive Education: <https://tidsskrift.dk/ejie/about/submissions>

Step 5: Prepare for Spring School – by 16 February 2026

You will receive peer papers and guidance for preparing your feedback.

Step 6: Attend the Spring School – 14–19 April 2026

Join us in Koblenz for a week of discussion, reflection, and community.

Who Can You Contact?

For general questions or to submit your application:
Olja Jovanović, olja.jovanovic@f.bg.ac.rs

For questions about your stay at the University of Koblenz:
Thorsten Merl, tmerl@uni-koblenz.de