Faculty Position in the History of Asia at the University of São Paulo

The Department of History at the University of São Paulo is seeking to appoint a tenure-track faculty member in History of Asia, whose research focuses on the Asian spaces rather than the European presence in Asia. Candidates who are proficient in Asian languages, have experience with Asian archives and sources, and are conversant with scholarly literature written in Asia by Asians will be preferred. The mission of the successful candidate is to establish and consolidate the field of History of Asia at the University of São Paulo.

Role:

- Develop his/her own individual research project, present its results in academic events, and publish them in national and international publications.
- Teach undergraduate surveys, advanced courses, and graduate seminars in the History of Asia, with particular focus on the Chinese, Indian and Japanese spaces.
- Supervise individual students at both undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as coordinate collective research projects.
- Mentor young researchers in Brazil and abroad.
- Forge collaboration and joint projects with national and foreign scholars and academic institutions.
- Lead outreach projects that spread the knowledge produced at the university to society in general.
- Take an active role in the university service and administration at all its different levels.

The position to be filled corresponds roughly to that of **tenure-track** assistant professor in US universities but open for scholars holding a PhD at any stage of their careers. There is a so-called 'probative' period of 3 years, after which **tenure is usually granted**. The position is called "Professor Doutor 1", or "MS-3.1", and is full-time, called "RDIDP" (an acronym for a full-time position dedicated to teaching and research).

The monthly salary, as of May, 2023, is R$ 14.761,02 (with other benefits and after taxes, this amounts to 150K BRL annually).

Useful information

Please find below some links with further information about our University, Department, Research in Brazil and the City of São Paulo:

a.   Edital - História da Ásia

Applications should be submitted by **April 22, 2024 at 5pm (Brasilia) (or 8pm UTC)**.

Applications should be submitted exclusively online through the website https://uspdigital.usp.br/gr/admissao (**detailed instructions at the end of this document**).

It is highly recommended to start filling in the forms many days before the deadline.

For any inquiries concerning the submission of application, please contact the Academic Technical Assistance of the Institute at apoioaca1fflch@usp.br or apoioaca2fflch@usp.br

For more general questions about academic career at USP, feel free to contact Prof. Daniel Strum at danistrum@gmail.com

The selection is competitive, and includes formal written and teaching exams, in addition to the evaluation of the candidates' trajectory, graded by a committee.

The exams can be taken in English, in which case this has to be stated explicitly in the application materials (the contents of the exams taken in English and Portuguese will be identical).

The written and teaching exams will cover the following topics (program):

1. Chronologies for the history of Asia: criteria and periodization

2. Organization of the spaces: ethnicities, wars e empires

3. Archeology and material culture in Asia ⌞SEP⌟

4. Writing systems and book cultures ⌞SEP⌟

5. Philosophies and the State: Hinduism, Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism and Shintoism

6. Structure of the elites and state organization

7. Sociocultural orders: clan, cast and family.

8. Dynamics between centers and peripheries, and the liquid territories

9. Inter-Asian connections: trade and diplomacy in Asia

10. Asia and the globalization processes

11. The historiographic debates around the Great Divergence.

The selection process is governed by the University's and Faculty (School) of Humanities bylaws. The official documents describing the rules of the process is Edital - História da Ásia and its amendment and the respective bylaws.

This is a summarized and explained translation meant to help foreign applicants and not a legal document (not legally binding): while the layout follows the Edital, the subtopics have been reorganized and the presentation simplified.

Information and documents required for application:

- personal information to be filled in a digital form
- a detailed account of academic trajectory (the "**memorial"**), together with copies of documents that demonstrate it.

- **VERY IMPORTANT:** The academic trajectory statement should describe the candidate's trajectory and achievements, explaining why they suit the position. While there is no length limit, academic trajectory statements are typically 20 pages long, and may include abstracts of published works, work in progress and projects. The statement **must be followed by a conventional CV and an appendix with digital copies of (i) diplomas, (ii) published work, and (iii) certificates of prizes and fellowships, (iv) certification of participation in prestigious academic meetings** demonstrating the content of statement. Links to documents or websites that can be modified by the candidate will not be accepted as proof of the items included in the memorial.

- **certificate of a doctoral degree** issued by USP or recognized by USP or recognized as valid in Brazil.

- **VERY IMPORTANT:** The candidates whose PhD title has not undergone a local validation process should start the process well before the deadline of Apr 22. For this purpose, please send a copies of your diploma, transcript of records, and PhD dissertation together with for on this link to **posfflch@usp.br and ask for the "equivalência para fins de concurso – História da Ásia" procedure**.

- **Please do this first and send this request UNTIL April 11.**

- copy of the passport
- for candidates with disabilities, a request can be made to provide the necessary conditions for taking the exams
- candidates can declare themselves to be of "African-American" or "indigenous" descent – described here as "black, indigenous, or people of color", or simply "BIPOC", as a literal translation from the Portuguese original, **see link below** – and express interest in participating in the differentiated scoring. The legislation which regulates such declarations has been prepared with Brazilian citizens in mind and it

is not clear to us how it applies to foreigners: we will update this paragraph when we know clearly how it applies to non-
Brazilians. https://secretaria.webhostusp.sti.usp.br/?p=12343.

Remarks:

It is the candidate's full responsibility to correctly upload the documents, and if the candidate does not remedy any irregularity in uploading an incomplete or illegible document during the registration period, their registration will be rejected. Moreover, candidates will not be allowed to submit documents out of time, even on appeal.

Date of the exams:

After a formal evaluation of the applications, those accepted will be listed at the Official Gazette of the State of São Paulo (Diário Oficial do Estado), and the **examination will be schedule in 30 to 120 days** after publication.

After appointment:

Foreign candidates approved in the competition and appointed to fill the position will have to obtain a temporary or permanent visa that allows them to exercise remunerated activity in Brazil before starting the job.

The candidate's investiture will be subject to approval in a medical examination carried out by the State Medical Examination Department (DPME).

RDIDP faculty have an exclusive employment relationship with USP.

The competition is held in two phases, the first being qualifying.

Remarks: Candidates who show up after the established time will not be allowed to take the exams.

1st phase (qualifying)
I – written exam – weight 20%

2nd phase
I – public hearing and judgment of the academic trajectory statement – weight 60%
II – teaching exam – weight 20%

Written exam:

1. The committee will draw up a list of ten topics, based on the competition program (syllabus), and will inform the candidates 24 hours before the exam; candidates may be required to carry out other activities during this period;
2. The candidate may propose the substitution of topics, immediately after becoming aware of their wording, if he/she believes that they do not belong to the competition program, and the judging committee will decide the matter;
3. Through a lottery a topic will be draw, after which, a non-extendable period of five hours for the exam begins;
4. The candidate may consult books, periodicals and other bibliographic materials during the first sixty minutes;
5. The candidate may use the notes taken during the consultation period during the remaining period of the exam, but notes must be made on paper sheets initialed by the committee and attached to the final text;
6. The candidate will read publicly his/her essay, whose copy will be handed over to the members of the judging committee when the session opens;
7. The members of the committee will assess each exam individually;
8. Candidates obtaining a minimum grade of seven (7.0) from the majority of the members of the committee will qualify for the second phase;
9. The committee will present the grades received by the candidates in a public session.

Evaluation of academic trajectory statement:

The candidate will present his/her historical academic trajectory to the committee in a public hearing. Each member of the committee will ask questions, and will attribute an overall grade to the presentation, answers and the content of the written piece. The grade must reflect the merit of the candidate and his/her suitability to field area of knowledge of this opening. Evaluation should consider scientific publication, teaching experience at university level, activities related to academic community service and outreach, professional activities, academic titles, prizes, and so on.

Teaching exam:

The teaching exam will be held publicly, lasting at least forty and no more than sixty minutes. The exam will cover one of the topics of the above program. The rules of the exam are:

1. The committee will draw up a list of ten topics, and draw one of them in a lottery. The committee will let the candidates know the list of topics immediately prior to the lottery;
2. The candidate may propose the substitution of topics, immediately after becoming aware of their wording, if he/she believes that they do not belong to the competition program, and the judging committee will decide the matter;
3. The exam will be held 24 hours after the lottery, during which the candidates will not be required to carry out any other activities;

4. The candidate may use any teaching materials during the exam they deem necessary, including syllabi, classes outlines, sources, visual material etc.;
5. If the number of candidates so requires, they will be divided into groups of no more than three, in their order of registration, for the purposes of drawing lots and taking the exam;
6. The committee must stop the candidate exam if it exceeds 60 minutes;
7. The committee must give a grade of zero to the teaching exam, if the candidate's presentation lasts less than 40 minutes.

At the end of all the exams, the committee and the candidates will convene in a public session, in which each candidate will receive his/her final grade from each examiner, which will be the weighted average of the grades they received in the two phases, taking into account the possible application of differentiated scores (see below).

Candidates who obtain a final grade of at least seven (7.0) from the majority of examiners will be considered qualified.

Each examiner will appoint one of the candidates according to the grades they have awarded. The committee will appoint the candidate with the most nominations by the committee's individual members.

Differentiated scores for BIPOC candidates:
1. The differentiated scores for **black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC)** candidates only applies for those who qualify to the second phase.
2. The differentiated grades apply to all grades obtained in the two phases.
3. For each exam, each committee member's grade to a BIPOC candidate will be multiplied by a factor which corresponds to the mean grade of the non-BIPOC candidates divided by the mean score of the BIPOC candidates.
   1. If the former mean is greater than the latter, the grades remain unaltered.
   2. The resulting grades will be limited by the value of 10.

Detailed guide for submission

(Attention: the submission system is undergoing changes all the time, so minor differences may be expected. Please take this as an aid. If any doubt remains, contact us at apoioaca1fflch@usp.br)

- Go to the link https://uspdigital.usp.br/gr/admissao
- At the top right corner of the page, click on "Cadastrar" (= "Sign up")
- Fill-in the information needed. *Highlights*:

- In the mandatory field "Identidade de gênero" (meaning "gender identity"), the options are: "Prefiro não informar" = "I prefer not to inform", "Mulher cisgênero" = "cisgender woman", "Mulher transgênero" = "transgender woman", "Homem cisgênero" = "cisgender man", "Homem transgênero" = "transgender man", "Não binário" = "non-binary", "Outro" = "Other", "Travesti" = "transvestite"
- In the mandatory field "Cor/Raça" (meaning "Colour/Race"), the options are: "Prefiro não informar" = "I prefer not to inform", "Indígena" = "Indigenous", "Branca" = "White", "Preta / negra" = "Black", "Amarela" = "Yellow", "Parda" = "Brown", "Não informada" = "Not informed".
- In the mandatory field "Orientação sexual" (meaning "sexual orientation"), the terms are very similar to English.
- In the mandatory field "Estado Civil" (meaning "civil or marital status"), the options are: "casado" = "married", "divorciado" = "divorced", "outro" = "other", "separado judicialmente" = "legally separated", "solteiro" = "single", "união estável" = "stable union/common law marriage", "viúvo" = "widower"
- The field "Necessito adequações ao concurso por ser PCD", meaning "I need adjustments to the competition because I am a person with special needs" has answers "Sim" ("Yes") or "Não" ("No"). If "Yes", a new field appears where you can describe your special needs.
- Documents:
  - Type of Document: there are many options, one of them is "Passaporte" ("Passport"). If needed, please contact us for help.
  - Número do documento (please inform the "number" of the document)
- Address information: "País" = "Country", "CEP or ZIP code", "State" (the options are adapted to the choice of country), "Cidade" = "City", "Bairro" = "Neighborhood name", "Endereço" = "Address" (meaning the name of street or public place), "Número" = "number of the house or building", "Complemento" = "Complement" (number of apartment, or number of the house inside a condominium etc).
- "Senha" = "Password", "Confirme a senha" = "Confirm password"
- "Salvar" = "Save"
- Go again to the top right corner of the page and click "Entrar" ("Sign in"). Insert e-mail address and password to sign in.
- Now the main page has a first Tab with the name "Buscar" ("Search"). Select "Inscrições abertas", "Professor Doutor" and "Faculdade de Filosofia, Letras e Ciências Humanas"), and click "Buscar" (button below).
- There may be more than one contest: search for the one written "História da Ásia" (= "History of Asia"). There are two icons to the left, one is "i" (from "information"), where the personal information may be edited, and another icon (a person depiction together with a '+' sign): click there and a pop-up window will appear.
- This pop-up window is the place where mandatory documents will be uploaded:
  - identity document, front-and-back (do not forget the 'back', whatever this means)
  - "regularidade de permanência no país" means something like a visa or permission to live or stay in Brazil. This is not mandatory (of course the candidate must follow the rules to come to Brazil at the time of the contest)
  - "diploma de doutorado ou ata de defesa frente e verso" means the PhD or equivalent certificate or, in the absence of one, the document proving that the thesis defense has been held and the candidate approved (front-and-back, do not forget)
  - a simple letter expressing the intention to take the tests in English

- the "memorial" (an academic trajectory, or extended CV, that places one's academic achievements in context); the documents that prove the statements in the memorial can be uploaded together with the memorial or in a later stage of this online process.
- Save at the bottom of the pop-up window. A warning will appear saying, in Portuguese, that "Registration will only be validated when documents supporting the memorial are attached to the accompanying tab".
- After that, a new window will appear, saying "Desejo me autodeclarar preto, pardo ou indígena" (= "I wish to declare myself black, brown or indigenous"), with the possible answers: Não (No) / Preto (Black) / Pardo (Brown) / Indígena (Indigenous)
- For any answer except "Não" a message appear saying "Desejo participar da ação afirmativa nos termos previstos no Edital de abertura de inscrições" (= "I wish to participate in affirmative action under the terms set out in the Registration Opening Notice") with answers Sim (Yes) / Não (No).
- Save and go to the next window. The two previous answers are shown and they can be modified (indeed, they can be modified anytime as you wish until the deadline).
- At this point, a personal photo must be uploaded.
- In this window, there is a check box at the bottom, saying "Concordo" (= "I agree") to the long text before it. The text says that you have integral responsibility over the information of being black, brown or indigenous, and that lying about it will subject you to relevant laws and penalties.
- After saving, a new warning appears, saying: "Before completing your registration, check that the documents requested in the notice were inserted correctly, that they are legible and that all the activities mentioned in the memorial have been proven." And a warning saying that it is mandatory to insert corroborative documents.
- You will finally arrive at the tab "Acompanhamento" (= "Tracking"), where it is possible to change documents, to alter the racial declaration and even cancel the submission. Moreover, it is the place where corroborative documents are uploaded, one by one. Use the button 'Incluir' (= 'Add') and upload anything you want. We recommend uploading here the document stating that your PhD diploma has been accepted by USP.
- At the bottom, there is a timeline indicating all events associated with the submission.
- This area will be available to the candidate until the submission deadline. Modifications, additions and substitution of documents will be allowed.