

One PhD position on Governance and Water Infrastructure Regimes in a west-African coastal city

PhD position (TV-L HU 13, 50%) for three years.

Starting date: June 1st, 2014

Reference number: DR / 037 / 14

We are seeking to appoint one doctoral researcher to join an interdisciplinary team working on a project entitled: WaterPower - Collision of mega-trends in a west-African coastal city.

The successful applicant will study the political production of uneven water natures shaped through governance, and determined by actor coalitions and historical trajectories. By employing methods from empirical human geography and drawing on concepts of political geography and political ecology the candidate will synthesize knowledge on water governance and water infrastructure regimes. In particular, the candidate contributes to the conceptual development of the socio-political hydro cycle and applies this on an empirical analysis of governance regimes in GAMA. The candidate will employ a transdisciplinary research design and must be able to establish and maintain active engagement with key policy actors and stakeholders.

We seek a candidate with an above-average MSc (or equivalent degree) in Geography, Political Ecology, (Water) Resource Management or related fields. We also expect excellent command of the English language, good communication skills, and willingness to work in interdisciplinary research teams. You will have to be flexible and adapt to conditions in the field, and will need empathy for the livelihoods of urban communities in Accra, and the ability to communicate across cultures. Working experience in (West-)Africa is an asset.

Essential skills and experience:

- A MSc degree or equivalent, in Geography, Political Ecology or (Water) Resource Management
- Strong interest in global change research and sustainability science (including inter- and transdisciplinary methods)
- Excellent knowledge in the analysis of resource regulation systems, political ecology and environmental governance and related theoretical and conceptual frameworks (e.g. ANT)
- Excellent knowledge in quantitative and qualitative methods provided by social science
- Expertise in planning and undertaking socio-ecological fieldwork in the tropics.
- Convening participatory processes, stakeholder engagement and a demonstrable aptitude for cross-cultural communication.
- Knowledge of geographic information systems and statistical knowledge is an asset
- Excellent organisational and communication skills
- Proven ability to work independently and efficiently and as a member of an international and interdisciplinary team

We offer a 3-year-position in an international, young and dynamic team in an excellent scientific surrounding. Payment will be according to 13 TV-L HU (50% position). The employment at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin offers all benefits of the German public service, including health insurance. HU Berlin hosts one of Germany's leading Geography Departments, with research foci in Sustainability Science, Land System Science and Urban Studies. Berlin is Germany's largest city with an inspiring metropolitan flair and great scientific networking opportunities. Researchers of all nationalities are welcome to apply. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin strives to increase the share of women in research, is a certified family-friendly university, and strongly encourages women to apply. We are committed to promoting handicapped individuals and applicants with disabilities who are equally qualified will be favoured.

The position will contribute to the research project WaterPower which is funded by Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). WaterPower aims to explore the interactions and dynamics of urbanization, (water) resource governance and impacts of climate change on water security in a rapidly growing coastal city and its critical thresholds. The knowledge generated shall be relevant and approachable for key stakeholders therefore we employ a transdisciplinary research approach. For more information about the project WaterPower please visit <http://www.geographie.hu-berlin.de/abteilungen/klimawandel-und-nachhaltige-entwicklung/projekte/WaterPower>

At the Geography Department, the applicant will join the group [Climate Change and Sustainable Development](#) (Prof. Dr. Antje Bruns). The overall aim of the Climate Change and Sustainability group is to better understand societal relationships with nature. Our aim is to strengthen socio-political perspectives in global change research. Empirically we study resource use and regulation systems (mainly water and energy) on regional to local scales. The group works collaboratively with international researchers and science institutions such as the Integrative Research Institute on Transformations of Human-Environment Systems (IRI THESys) and is an active contributor to international global change networks.

Applications including a letter of motivation, full CV, a 2 page research proposal for the above mentioned field, a writing example of the candidate (e.g., a publication, a part of a thesis), and contact details for two references shall be sent electronically in a single PDF file to Prof. Dr. Antje Bruns (antje.bruns@geo.hu-berlin.de). Please include the reference number in the content line of your email.

Application deadline: May 7th, 2014

Please visit our website www.hu-berlin.de/stellenangebote, which gives you access to the legally binding German version.