

### **Pre-Announcement: Notice of Vacancy**

#### **Two Doctoral and one PostDoc position in the junior research group WaterPower**

Within the Governance & Sustainability Lab at Universität Trier (Prof. Dr. Antje Bruns) **we announce three positions looking for two Doctoral Candidates (TV-L 13, 50%) and one PostDoc (TV-L 13, 100%)** preliminarily until 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018 (pending approval by the budgeting institution).

Team members will contribute to the WaterPower research project which is funded by the Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). ***WaterPower is a laboratory for experimenting novel ways of doing research in urban water studies. We contribute to current debates on society-nature relations by mapping, analyzing and understanding processes that unfold in the urban water sphere.***

For more information about the WaterPower project please visit [www.waterpower.science](http://www.waterpower.science)

Inspired by a political ecology perspective we like to understand how and by whom the urban (water) sphere is shaped. As a doctoral or postdoc researcher you can apply for one of the following topics:

**“Politics of the Urban Metabolism”** The successful applicant will study the (politicized) flow of urban water in the urban system of the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area in Ghana, West-Africa, as well as assess the synergies and trade-offs between water availability, its use and socio-economic development.

**“Spatio-temporal dynamics of coastal urbanization”** The successful applicant will study patterns and processes of urbanization in Coastal Ghana. The candidate will identify spatio-temporal patterns of urban land conversion; analyse different forms, patterns and intensities of urban land use change and model future patterns of urbanization on the Ghanaian coast by using geospatial data and models.

**“Political Ecology of urban Wetlands”** The successful applicant will assess the status of wetlands in the case study site of the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area in Ghana, West-Africa, and investigate the effects of urban forms, patterns and use intensities on aquatic systems. An actor-centred perspective on the production of ecosystem (dis)services in urban landscapes shall be developed.

If you apply for the PostDoc Position you must have a doctoral degree/PhD in one of the above mentioned research areas, a demonstrated record in inter- or transdisciplinary studies with peer-reviewed publications; willingness to co- contribute to the overarching project goals and interest in contributing to Bachelor and Master Courses.

If you apply as a doctoral candidate: We seek candidates with an above average MSc degree in Geography or Environmental Sciences with a demonstrated interest in inter- and transdisciplinary urban/water studies.

All candidates should have excellent command of the English language, good communication skills, and the motivation to work within an interdisciplinary and international research environment. The candidates will have to be flexible, adapt to conditions in the field, be empathetic with the livelihood conditions of urban communities in Accra, and show the ability of cross-cultural communication. Working experience in (West-)Africa provides an additional asset.

#### **Essential skills and experiences required:**

- A MSc (respectively doctoral degree) in Geography or Environmental Sciences
- Strong interest in global change research and sustainability science (including inter- and transdisciplinary methods)
- Good grounding in the analysis of social-ecological system dynamics
- Depending on the position:
  - expertise in urban studies, urban ecology or political ecology in particular

- Excellent knowledge in geo-spatial analysis, modelling and/or remote sensing in the urban context – either from a human or physical geography perspective
- Excellent knowledge of social science methods (qualitative and/or quantitative)
- Demonstrated interest in convening participatory processes, stakeholder engagement and a demonstrable aptitude for cross-cultural communication
- Expertise in planning and undertaking socio-ecological fieldwork in the global south
- Excellent organisational and communication skills
- Proven ability to work independently and efficiently and as a member of an international and interdisciplinary team
- Good knowledge of German provides an additional asset

The Governance and Sustainability Lab at Universität Trier (Prof. Dr. Antje Bruns) conducts research along the intersection of political ecology and resource governance in the context of global change. Empirically, we study resource use and regulation systems (mainly water and energy) with the aim to contribute to critical (conceptual and theoretical) debates in urban political ecology and governance research. Our research group works collaboratively with international researchers and research institutions, actively contributing to international global change networks.

**We offer:**

- An excellent scientific research environment within a young, international, and dynamic team
- Highly relevant and exciting research topics
- Great location for scientific networking, as Trier presents a communication hub with multiple European neighbouring countries (Belgium, France and Luxembourg)
- Payment according to 13 TV-L West (50% position for doctoral candidates and 100% for Post-Doc position)
- All benefits of the German public service, including health insurance

**Applications should include:**

- Letter of motivation
- Full CV
- 4 page research proposal for the respective position
- Writing sample (e.g., a publication, a part of a thesis)
- Contact details of two references

All documents must be sent electronically and in a **single** PDF file to the Faculty Regional and Environmental Sciences at University Trier Dr. E. Tressel ([dekfb6@uni-trier.de](mailto:dekfb6@uni-trier.de)). Please include WaterPower and the short title of the position in the content line of your email.

For questions please contact Prof. Dr. Antje Bruns [antje.bruns@geo.hu-berlin.de](mailto:antje.bruns@geo.hu-berlin.de)

We welcome applications from researchers of all nationalities. The University Trier strives to increase the share of women in research and strongly encourages women to apply. The university is a certified family-friendly employer. We are committed to promoting handicapped individuals and applicants with disabilities who are equally qualified will be favoured.

**Application deadline will be after three weeks of official announcement. Please check the website of Trier University [www.uni-trier.de](http://www.uni-trier.de)**

We look forward to receiving your application!