

The Institute of Geography at the University of Bern is announcing a

Post-doc position in the unit Geography & Critical Sustainability Studies (80 %, research & teaching, 4 yrs.)

To develop further research on the following theme:

Healthcare unbound: A transnational perspective on the future of the world of work in health care

The health sector in Switzerland shows the global trend of economization, oriented towards market-driven modes of governance. Cost-effectiveness started to dominate other, rather public, and common good-related criteria. The recruitment of health workers (e.g. doctors, nurses, midwives, technical staff) from abroad allows for shifting costs of medical education and training and circulations of knowledge and technologies to budgets of other countries. The outcome of this overemphasis on economic indicators is part of a more general tendency of the commodification of work, health and care-related knowledge and technologies and raises questions about capacities and capabilities for social, economic, ecological innovation, emancipation, and justice in search for more sustainable 'work'. The effects of the increasing commodification trends on the quality of work as perceived by the main target group of a health institution – the patients – is also widely unknown.

Therefore, this research project addresses processes, actors and institutions related to the commodification of work, health and care-related knowledge (incl. professional education and training) and technologies from a multi-scalar and translocal perspective. We aim at co-creating knowledge and contributing to debates about the future of work in health care, based on inter- and transdisciplinary social learning among key actors of the health care system and us as researchers.

To empirically capture those questions the research should take Switzerland as an entry point and remain open to the translocal linkages the research will reveal. Similarly, the health care sector could potentially also be linked with other related or comparable fields of work.

We are seeking a post-doctoral scholar for research and teaching to join our team.

The successful candidate will:

- Develop an individual research project within the above-given lines with a clear commitment to debates on sustainability grounded in critical social theory and taking into account power relations and questions of justice
- Contribute to the collaborative development of a conceptual and methodological framework of the wider research project
- Co-develop and conduct research in a transdisciplinary manner contributing to our [mLAB](#)'s practices of applying and developing further methods for collaborations with researchers, research participants and artists
- Contribute to teaching and supervision of students at BSc/MSc level (seminars, excursions)
- Lead and participate in grant applications
- Co-organize workshops and conferences with the other members of the research team
- Present their research at scientific conferences and public events
- Show strong commitment to individual and collaborative publication activities and further academic qualification
- Contribute to academic self-management at the Institute of Geography

Your qualifications:

- A completed PhD in geography (with a focus on sustainability and/or labour, migration and mobilities, global health) or related fields such as social anthropology or sociology
- Experience in qualitative empirical research methods (experience in transdisciplinary approaches, participatory, visual and/or artistic methods is a strong asset)
- Evidence of publication capacity and a clear research and publication plan
- Teaching experience
- Excellent language skills in English and German (Teaching is partly in German)

We offer:

- An 80 % four years position with a gross salary according to salary regulations of the Canton of Bern
- An opportunity to work in an international and innovative environment with researchers, activists and artists comprising our [unit](#), the [GIUB](#), the [mLAB](#) (an experimental space that brings together research, media, and art) and exchange with the [CDE](#) and [IZFG](#).
- Expenses for travel, fieldwork, workshops

Applications should include a letter of motivation, a full CV including previous teaching activities, a 1-2 pages research idea and plan for the next four years relating to the research theme described above, one writing sample (e.g. article, chapter), contact information for two referees, and copies of diplomas/diploma supplements.

Deadline: October 27th 2021

Applications as a single PDF should be sent to Melina Weiss (melina.weiss@giub.unibe.ch). Questions about the position should be addressed to Prof. Susan Thieme, susan.thieme@giub.unibe.ch. Interviews will be held between 8-10th November 2021.

We value diversity and equal opportunity. The selection process builds on the criteria of the [Better Science Initiative](#). The desired starting date of the position is if applicable January 3rd 2022. Workplace is Bern.