



PhD Position in the GIScience Centre, Department of Geography, University of Zurich

From text to landscape: characterising and comparing landscapes using textual descriptions

The GIScience Center at the Department of Geography, University of Zurich invites applications for a PhD candidate. The position will focus on building on current research carried out in our group to exploit natural language as a source of information about landscapes. We develop methods to identify, categorise and link descriptions found in unstructured text to space, and use these to explore how landscape elements and properties are perceived and described. The successful candidate will work with us to identify a theme building on our current work, for example by visualising effectively large volumes of texts, developing methods to build landscape specific lexicons for sentiment analysis, using text to explore perception and use of protected areas or comparing spatially and temporally texts discussing themes such as wilderness.

You will be supervised by Prof. Ross Purves and will be a member of the Geocomputation Unit, where research focuses on computational methods for the analysis of a wide range of geographic data sources. In turn, the Unit forms part of the GIScience Centre, which hosts research groups working on diverse topics including language and space, geographic information retrieval, uncertainty modelling, movement analysis, digital cartography and mobile systems, geovisual analytics, and spatial cognition.

We are looking for highly motivated candidates, with a desire to develop a research career and with a passion for research. In return we offer excellent working conditions, a stimulating environment and Zurich's high quality of life. Applicants are required to have completed, or to complete before appointment, a Masters level degree at a high standard in a relevant field such as Geographic Information Science (GIScience), computing science, geography or environmental science.

Applicants should also have a very good standard of written and spoken English. Fluency, or a willingness to learn, German would also be an advantage. You are a capable programmer, and are familiar with inferential statistics. A knowledge of natural language processing methods would be an advantage, but is not essential.

To apply, send a curriculum vitae, a motivation statement relating to the description of the above, transcripts, and contact details for two referees (including e-mail addresses) in **a single PDF document**. Review of applications will commence on **30th September 2019** and continue until a suitable candidate is found.

Please mark your application with reference "**Landscape PhD**", Ross Purves to ross.purves@geo.uzh.ch. For further questions with respect to the position, please contact Ross Purves (ross.purves@geo.uzh.ch).