



External Job Announcement
Reg.-Nr. 5-8115/21-D

MLU-BioDivFund

Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) invites applications for the following position:

Doctoral Researcher (m/f/d) on the project
"Impacts of biodiversity on physical fitness, sociability, and health in Saxony-Anhalt and beyond"

(starting date: November 2021, limited to 3 years, 65 percent of a full-time employment, salary will be up to Entgeltgruppe 13 TV-L if the personal requirements and tasks are fulfilled, work place will be located at MLU Halle).

Research topic: Impacts of biodiversity on physical fitness, sociability, and health in Saxony-Anhalt and beyond

The project is funded by the Federal State of Saxony-Anhalt (MLU-BioDivFund). The programme seeks to expand biodiversity research to new interdisciplinary research fields, which will be done in close cooperation with the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig as well as with the universities Friedrich Schiller University Jena (FSU) and University of Leipzig (UL) and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ).

The aim of this project is to study the nexus between biodiversity and individual health, both theoretically and empirically, combining different perspectives in an interdisciplinary collaboration between social scientists, biologists, geographers, and medical health researchers. As a novel indicator of the state of the natural environment, external data on biodiversity will be linked to the 16 German study regions covered in the NAKO ("Nationale Kohorte") dataset, a large, national database comprising more than 200,000 German respondents. The main goal is to study, on a regional comparative basis, how biodiversity relates to daily physical activity and sociability, and how this in turn impacts different dimensions of health of respondents in these municipalities. The project is supervised by Prof. Arránz Becker, <https://soziologie.uni-halle.de/professuren/methoden/>

The MLU-BioDivFund researchers will be integrated in a stimulating network of excellence. They will become enrolled in yDiv, the Graduate school of iDiv, which involves an international qualification programme, an interdisciplinary PhD advisory committee (PAC) and unique offers to meet, study and discuss with figureheads in biodiversity research.

Tasks:

Main tasks:

1. to link external data on biodiversity, acquired in collaboration with co-PIs, to the NAKO dataset (access will be provided by the main PI)
2. to prepare and analyse the data via advanced multilevel methods (e.g., spatial multilevel models) and to prepare papers for publication in international journals, in collaboration with other team members
3. to plan and organize a workshop with experts from the field

The doctoral researcher will be supervised at the Institute of Sociology by the main PI. There will be a close collaboration with the Co-PIs from different disciplines who provide support and guidance on specific tasks (e.g., acquiring and linking geo-coded contextual data on biodiversity). Moreover, the work will also include scientific exchange with other work groups, participation in iDiv meetings, and presentations on international conferences. Doctoral students will have the opportunity to either submit their PhD thesis as a cumulative thesis or as a doctoral dissertation monograph at the Institute of Sociology.

Requirements:

- Master or equivalent degree in a project-related field: sociology, (computational) social sciences, or psychology
- Excellent quantitative statistical and programming skills in R or Stata are necessary
- Knowledge of and, as an advantage, previous experience with multilevel regression models
- Strong interest in and knowledge of environmental sociology and/or sociology of health
- Fluent in English communication in writing and speaking. Knowledge of German is an advantage
- A clear drive to do science
- Motivated to be a proactive team player in an international research consortium
- Flexible and well organized, hands-on mentality

The Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg gives priority to applications from severely disabled candidates with equivalent qualifications. Women are particularly encouraged to apply.

Queries concerning the application process should be directed to Dr. Stefan Trogisch (stefan.trogisch@botanik.uni-halle.de), for project-related questions, please contact Prof. Arránz Becker (oliver.arranz-becker@soziologie.uni-halle.de).

Submission deadline is 20 August 2021. Selected candidates will be invited to the online joint recruitment symposium taking place in 29 September 2021.

All applications should include:

- Cover letter in English describing motivation for the project, research interests and relevant experience
- complete curriculum vitae including names and contact details of at least two scientific references
- digital copy of MA/BA/Diploma certificates
- all documents should be submitted as one single pdf file.

Kindly send your application, quoting the reference number 5-8115/21-D to the main PI, Prof. O. Arránz Becker (oliver.arranz-becker@soziologie.uni-halle.de).

The position is offered with reservation of possible budgetary restrictions. Application portfolios will not be returned, application costs will not be reimbursed.