

The Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (www.leibniz-zmt.de) in Bremen is a member of the Leibniz Association, which is supported by the German Federal and State Governments. Through its research, ZMT contributes to developing science-based strategies for sustainable use of tropical coastal systems.

The ZMT has a position available for a

Post-Doctoral Position in Development and Knowledge Sociology

(Reference number 61-A)

Project: Mangroves and Meaning-Making: A mutual relationship over time
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Anna-Katharina Hornidge (FB 08, University of Bremen & ZMT)

Description:

The Research Group 'Development and Knowledge Sociology' at the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research in Bremen, and the Fachbereich 8 at the University of Bremen, seeks a Post-Doctoral Researcher in the social sciences with grounded expertise in marine/coastal sociology, anthropology, area studies, human geography, gender, development, postcolonial or science and technology studies, working on tropical regions for a two-year ZMT-funded Post-Doctoral project as part of the ZMT-Core Budget Funding. Descriptions are included below.

The 'Development and Knowledge Sociology' Research Group focuses on three interrelated fields of research: a) Marine Science Studies - Discourses of Knowledge; b) Oceanic Futures and Foresight Studies; c) Coastal Transformation Studies. The Post-Doctoral researcher will contribute directly to the first of these and collaborate with the other two.

Tasks:

Implement – in close interaction with Professor Dr. Anna-Katharina Hornidge and Dr. Maria Jose Barragan Paladines – the project 'Mangroves and Meaning-Making: A mutual relationship over time'. Conduct empirical, qualitative research, and prepare two scientific papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals, based on the results of the research.

Cooperate closely with other researchers within the 'DKS' research group and contribute to the successful implementation of this project.

Contribute to ongoing discussions and work processes in the Research Group at ZMT, as well as the Social Sciences Department at ZMT, when necessary.

The Post-Doctoral Research Project: Mangroves and Meaning-Making: A Mutual Relationship Over Time

While mangrove ecosystems have been widely investigated from a social-ecological perspective, their 'systems' have been discretely studied. This interdisciplinary study offers a novel approach to understanding the iterative relationship and interactive dynamics of mangroves. By drawing on the Ecuadorian-Colombian border and Guayas Province we explore the vastly understudied: a) mirroring and contradictory discourses of how humans make sense of these mangroves through stories told, scientific accounts and political statements; b) linkages and the mutual influences of ecosystem change (e.g. species availability and services); and c) economic and socio-institutional structures that determine changeable 'values' that are ascribed to mangroves and their changing conditions. The multiple methodological approaches that span the disciplines of the Development and Knowledge Sociology, Mangrove Ecology, Behavioural and Institutional Economics will be integrated in ways that afford a critical re-thinking of mangrove histories, meanings, functions and futures, and a large scale interdisciplinary proposal will be developed.

Under a Sociology of Knowledge Approach to Discourse (Keller 2011a, 2001b) this project looks at these narratives discursively and ethnographically, following them from the sphere of current local practices to the realm of national policy making (government programs, action plans, policies) implemented to achieve their conservation and sustainable use.

Requirements:

- PhD degree in a relevant field of the social sciences (e.g. Sociology, Anthropology, Cultural Studies, Area Studies, Human Geography, Development, Gender and/or Science & Technology Studies);
- Empirical, qualitative, ethnographic research experience, within the Latin American context;
- Able to spend long periods doing field research in Ecuador and Colombia;
- Effective interpersonal communication skills including ability to work in a team;
- Advanced written and oral communication skills in English, including demonstrated academic writing skills;
- Demonstrated initiative and willingness to take on unexpected tasks;
- Local language skills for the research region (i.e., Spanish) is essential.

Details of Position:

- Part-time (TV-L, EG 13, 80 %); envisioned starting date: May 2018.
- The candidate will be on a 20-months contract.

ZMT offers a dynamic, interdisciplinary and international research environment and interesting, diverse, and challenging tasks in a family-friendly work environment. ZMT is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants with a migration background are welcome. Disabled persons with comparable qualification receive preferential status.

Additional Information: For additional information, on the project itself, please contact: Prof. Dr. Anna-Katharina Hornidge: anna-katharina.hornidge@leibniz-zmt.de

Submission of Application:

Please send your complete set of application documents in English comprising the following: Letter of Motivation, CV (with publication record if relevant), attached certificates, and a sample chapter from a completed PhD thesis or published paper. Only short-listed candidates will be notified. Deadline for applications is April 30, 2018.

Documents should be e-mailed as a single PDF file to Ms. Lena Oehlmann (bewerbung@leibniz-zmt.de) with the reference number 61-A, and the Working Group 'Development and Knowledge Sociology.'

Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research, Fahrenheitstrasse 6, D -28359 Bremen.