

## Two posts as Research Associate (PhD candidates)

### – *Discourses of the Circular Economy* –

salary group E 13 TV-L, part-time (65%), to be filled for a 4-year term beginning in March 2017.  
Duty location is Freiburg, Germany.

The newly established research group *Circulus: Opportunities and Challenges of Transformation towards a Sustainable Circular Economy* invites applications of suitable candidates for two PhD positions.

*Circulus* aims to develop a comprehensive understanding of the emergence and potential pathways of a circular economy in Europe and beyond. It asks how the circular economy is discursively constructed in Germany, Europe, and beyond and what material change processes are connected to it. To achieve integrated insights into political, economic, and societal change processes, the group combines perspectives from political science, sociology, economics, and engineering/industrial ecology. The group is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and located in an exciting, international network of scholars from diverse disciplines.

#### About the Job

PhD A will investigate discourses related to a circular economy across different sectors in Germany. The research will involve travelling within Germany.

PhD B will investigate discourses related to a circular economy across different sectors of another country (likely the USA). This will involve a research stay at a partner university abroad.

Both PhD candidates are expected to conduct empirical research, e.g. collecting and analyzing interviews, policy documents, social network and observation data. They will apply an actor-centered approach to discourse analysis (Discursive Agency Approach) which places a particular emphasis on the role of actors in the creation of discourses. Based on their empirical results, they will prepare academic papers and support the group in deepening and enhancing the approach.

#### Qualifications, competencies & experience

- Master's degree (or equivalent) in political/social science, human geography or natural resource management, environmental studies, sustainability science with a strong emphasis on social questions;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and either excellent knowledge of German (PhD A) or working knowledge of German (PhD B);
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and to adapt to an international work environment;
- Strong interpersonal skills and a desire to cooperate closely with the group;
- Ability to engage with researchers and stakeholders from a range of backgrounds;
- Experience with collecting and analyzing qualitative data;

- Prior engagement with theories & concepts from environmental governance and with natural-resource or technology related issues;
- Motivation for a career in academic research;
- Willingness to travel.

The following experience is beneficial:

- Demonstrated experience in conducting social empirical research, and discourse analysis in particular;
- Demonstrated experience in environment or technology related social science research;
- Demonstrated experience in publishing and presenting research findings in peer-reviewed journals and at scientific conferences.

### **We offer**

The position presents the chance to be part of an interdisciplinary group committed to cutting-edge research in sustainability science. The post involves the opportunity to learn new scientific methods and approaches, participation in national and international scientific conferences and the possibility to join a formal PhD program (<https://www.gs.esgc.uni-freiburg.de>). You will be located in an enabling research environment at a faculty with renowned staff, excellent research networks and an international, multi-disciplinary student body in the heart of the Black Forest.

The University of Freiburg is an equal opportunity employer committed to fostering heterogeneity among its employees and increasing the proportion of female scientists. Consequently, we actively encourage applications from qualified women. We also welcome applications from candidates with severe disabilities who will be given preferential consideration in case of equal qualification.

### **To Apply**

Please send a cover and motivation letter (in English, 2 pages max.), a CV, an example of your scientific writing (e.g. Master's thesis), copies of relevant school and university certificates and transcripts, and contact details of at least two references. Please submit all materials through mail or e-mail in one PDF file named with your surname (e.g. Smith.pdf) to

Martina Attinger

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**Application deadline: Monday, December 5, 2016**

**Interviews with shortlisted candidates: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 & Thursday, January 19, 2016 in Freiburg.**

For questions about the job, please contact Dr. Sina Leipold ([sina.leipold@ifp.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:sina.leipold@ifp.uni-freiburg.de)).  
For more information about the research group, visit [www.circulus-project.de](http://www.circulus-project.de)