

Leuphana University Lüneburg (foundation under public law), Faculty of Sustainability, is offering a post as:

PhD Researcher – Wissenschaftliche/r Mitarbeiter/in, salary group E 13 TV-L (50%)
– PhD 7: Sustainability-related knowledge creation and use (sustainability conceptualization and opportunities for change) –

Starting ideally October 2015, for a duration of up to 3 years. The position is part of a new, transdisciplinary project funded by the State of Lower Saxony and Volkswagen Foundation entitled:

**Leverage Points for Sustainability Transformation:
Institutions, People and Knowledge**

About the project

Understanding how changes in interconnected social-ecological systems facilitate the transformation to sustainability represents one of the key challenges of sustainability science. Drawing on insights from systems thinking and solution-oriented transdisciplinary research, this project will focus on hitherto under-recognized leverage points – system properties where a small shift can lead to fundamental changes in the system as a whole. Leverage Points will focus on changes in relatively intractable, but potentially highly influential, system properties that could help to realign complex social-ecological systems to the normative goals of sustainability. Specifically, we will analyse three sustainability-relevant leverage points: 1) institutional dynamics (RESTRUCTURE); 2) human-environment interactions (RECONNECT); and 3) sustainability-related knowledge creation and use (RETHINK). The three leverage points will be studied individually and with regard to their interdependencies, on two key themes (food and energy) in two contrasting case study regions (Transylvania in Romania, and Lower Saxony in Germany). For details, see www.leveragepoints.org

About the job – PhD7: Sustainability-related knowledge creation and use (sustainability conceptualization and opportunities for change)

This position focuses on consolidating conceptual foundations related to new forms of knowledge production and use, and will apply and investigate these in local transdisciplinary case studies. The themes of the case studies will revolve around the food and energy systems in Lower Saxony (DE) and Transylvania (RO).

You will be expected to work closely with the research consortium, including seven other PhD students, eight Principal Investigators, and Four Postdoctoral researchers.

Tasks and responsibilities may include:

1) Reviewing the state of sustainability related knowledge production and use in the study regions; 2) analysis of sustainability conceptualisations in different contexts in the specific case study regions; 3) identification and design of opportunities for creating new forms of knowledge production and use for regional change; and 4) contribution to the organization and management of a transdisciplinary case study.

Person specification

Essential selection criteria: a) Masters or equivalent degree in a relevant field; b) highly developed conceptual skills; c) excellent written and oral communication skills (English); d) ability and willingness to work in a large, multi-disciplinary research

project; e) experience with qualitative and/or quantitative social science methods; and f) basic knowledge of sustainability science,

Additional desirable selection criteria: a) previous experience in food/agriculture and/or energy systems; b) experience with sustainability transitions research; c) background in (social-) psychology or sociology of knowledge; and d) experience with participatory/transdisciplinary research approaches.

An additional advantage will be fluency in German or Romanian.

Leuphana University Lüneburg is an equal opportunity employer committed to fostering heterogeneity among its employees. Applications by qualified individuals of all backgrounds are strongly encouraged. Disabled applicants with equal qualifications will be given priority consideration.

To apply

Please address all selection criteria under clearly labelled headings in up to one short paragraph for each. Please also send a motivation letter stating why you are interested in the position, a CV (including publications), copies of relevant certificates and transcripts, and the names of up to three academic referees.

Please submit all materials in PDF format (as a single merged file) with the subject: Leverage Points PhD7 to bewerbung@leuphana.de and cc abson@leuphana.de. Files should be named with the applicant's surname (e.g. SmithLeveragePointsPhD7.pdf).

Application deadline: 30th June, 2015

For any questions about the project and the job, please contact Prof. Dr. Daniel Lang (Daniel.lang@leuphana.de) or Dr. Dave Abson (abson@leuphana.de)

For more information on the Leverage Points project, please visit www.Leveragepoints.org.

You may submit hard copy applications (not preferred!) to:

Leuphana Universität Lüneburg
Personalservice Petra Mühl-Beulke
Kennwort: LeveragePointsPD7
Scharnhorststr. 1
21335 Lüneburg
Germany.