



The Governance and Sustainability Lab at the University of Trier (Prof. Dr. Antje Bruns) announces the following vacancy:

## Pre-Announcement Notice: Postdoctoral Researcher (TV-L 13 West, 100%)

**A formal position announcement will soon be posted on:** <https://www.uni-trier.de>

The Postdoctoral Researcher will contribute to the WaterPower project funded by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). WaterPower is a laboratory for experimenting in novel ways of doing research in urban water studies. As a junior research group, WaterPower contributes to current debates on nature-society relations by analyzing and understanding processes that unfold in the urban water sphere. For detailed information about the project, please visit: [www.waterpower.science](http://www.waterpower.science)

### Research Background

Inspired by a political ecology perspective, we aim to understand how and by whom the urban (water) sphere is shaped. As a WaterPower PostDoc you will study the (politicized) flow of water in the urban system of the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area in Ghana, West Africa, and assess the synergies and trade-offs between water availability, water use and socio-economic development. Comparative approaches in urban geography are invited.

### Requirements

- A doctoral degree in a discipline relevant for critical geographical research on political ecology, governance and complex human-nature relations (e.g. Human Geography, Political Science, Anthropology, Sociology, Development Studies, Urban Studies)
- A demonstrated research interest in environmental politics, global change research and human-nature relations with peer-reviewed publications
- Sound knowledge of political ecology concepts
- Excellent knowledge of social science methods (qualitative and/or quantitative)

- Willingness to contribute to Bachelor and Master courses
- Working experience in the Global South is a requirement
- Working experience in (West) Africa is an asset
- Good knowledge of German would be an additional asset

Successful applicants should have excellent command of the English language (both written and oral skills), good interpersonal communication skills, and the motivation to work within an interdisciplinary and international research environment. We expect the successful candidate to work independently, adapt to challenging conditions during field research, be empathetic with the livelihood conditions of urban communities in Ghana, and show the ability for inter-cultural communication.

#### **What we offer:**

- Highly relevant and exciting research topics
- An excellent research environment with a young, international, and dynamic team
- Great location for scientific networking, as the city of Trier is a hub between the neighboring European countries of Belgium, France and Luxembourg
- Payment according to TV-L 13 West (100%)
- A 1,5-year contract starting **October 1, 2016 until March 31, 2018** (with the possibility for one year extension, pending approval by the funding institution).
- All benefits of the German public service, including health insurance

#### **Applications should include:**

- Letter of Motivation
- Full CV
- 2-page PostDoc research proposal
- Writing sample (at least one peer reviewed publication in English)
- Contact details of two referees

After the formal position announcement has been published, all documents must be sent electronically and in a **single** PDF file to the Governance and Sustainability Lab at the University of Trier. Deadline for applications will be the end of **June 2016**. Interviews will be held by the end of **July 2016**.

For questions please contact Anja Hasselberg ([hasselb@uni-trier.de](mailto:hasselb@uni-trier.de)) or Prof. Dr. Antje Bruns ([brunsa@uni-trier.de](mailto:brunsa@uni-trier.de)).

We welcome applications from researchers of all nationalities. The University of Trier strives to increase the proportion of women in science and particularly encourages women to apply. The university is a certified family-friendly employer. Applicants with disabilities who are equally qualified will receive preferential status.