

The Institute of Geography at the University of Bern is announcing a

PhD position in the unit Geography & Critical Sustainability Studies (3- 4 yrs.)

To develop and implement PhD research on the following theme:

Healthcare unbound: A transnational perspective on the future of the world of work in health care

The health sector in Switzerland shows the global trend of economization, oriented towards market-driven modes of governance. Cost-effectiveness started to dominate other, rather public, and common good-related criteria. The recruitment of health workers (e.g. doctors, nurses, midwives, technical staff) from abroad allows for shifting costs of medical education and training and circulations of knowledge and technologies to budgets of other countries. The outcome of this overemphasis on economic indicators is part of a more general tendency of the commodification of work, health and care-related knowledge and technologies and raises questions about capacities and capabilities for social, economic, ecological innovation, emancipation, and justice in search for more sustainable 'work'. The effects of the increasing commodification trends on the quality of work as perceived by the main target group of a health institution – the patients – is also widely unknown.

Therefore, this research project addresses processes, actors and institutions related to the commodification of work, health and care-related knowledge (incl. professional education and training) and technologies from a multi-scalar and translocal perspective. We aim at co-creating knowledge and contributing to debates about the future of the world of work in health care, based on inter- and transdisciplinary social learning among key actors of the health care system and us as researchers.

To empirically capture those questions the research should take Switzerland as an entry point and remain open to the translocal linkages the research will reveal. Similarly, the health care sector could potentially also be linked with other related or comparable fields of work.

We are seeking a candidate for research and teaching to join our team.

The successful candidate will:

- Realize an own PhD research project within the above-given lines with a clear commitment to debates on sustainability grounded in critical social theory
- Co-develop and conduct research in a transdisciplinary manner contributing to our [mLAB](#)'s practices of applying and developing further methods for collaborations with researchers, research participants and artists
- Present their research at conference
- Co-organize research related events and having a strong interest in vital debates and exchange
- Show strong commitment to publication activities and academic qualification
- Supporting the groups teaching and self-management activities

Your qualifications:

- A completed Master degree geography (with a focus on sustainability and/or labour, migration and mobilities, global health) or related fields such as social anthropology or sociology
- Experience in qualitative empirical research methods (experience in transdisciplinary approaches, participatory, visual and/or artistic methods is a strong asset) or strong interest to develop such skills
- Excellent language skills in English. German and/or French is an asset.

We offer:

- A fully funded 3-4 yrs. PhD position (gross salary according to salary regulations of the Canton of Bern)
- An opportunity to work in an international and innovative environment with researchers, activists and artists comprising our [unit](#), the [GIUB](#), the [mLAB](#) (an experimental space that brings together research, media, and art), [the International Graduate School \(IGS\) North-South](#) and exchange with the [CDE](#) and [IZFG](#).
- Expenses for travel, fieldwork, workshops and conferences

Applications should include a letter of motivation, a full CV, a 1-2 pages research idea and plan for the PhD research relating to the research theme, one writing sample (e.g. chapter Master Thesis), contact information for one referee and copies of diplomas/diploma supplements.

Deadline: October 27th 2021

Applications as a single PDF should be sent to Melina Weiss (melina.weiss@giub.unibe.ch). Questions about the position should be addressed to Prof. Susan Thieme, susan.thieme@giub.unibe.ch. Interviews will be held between 8-10th November 2021.

We value diversity and equal opportunity. The selection process builds on the criteria of the [Better Science Initiative](#). The desired starting date of the position is if applicable January 3rd 2022. Workplace is Bern.