

[Eawag](#), the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology, is an internationally networked aquatic research institute within the ETH Domain (Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology). Eawag conducts research, education and expert consulting to achieve the dual goals of meeting direct human needs for water and maintaining the function and integrity of aquatic ecosystems.

The research department on Environmental Social Sciences (ESS) invites applications for

## **Two PhD positions on «Valuation in sustainability transitions»**

The two PhD projects will analyze how value related developments and strategies influence the success of sustainable products and technologies and ultimately drive sustainability transitions. Valuation processes mainly play out in technology legitimation, the formation of new markets as well as the mobilization of financial resources. Each PhD student will focus on one empirical case: i) urban water services impacted by value shifts regarding hygiene and the recycling of used water and ii) food, clothes and/or chemicals sectors increasingly impacted by considerations for animal rights and veganism. The projects will draw on recent theorizing in transition studies, economic sociology, and economic geography to develop major conceptual contributions to sustainable sector transformations and industry emergence. The empirical analysis will apply the newly developed socio-technical configuration analysis method combined with conventional qualitative approaches. Both PhD students will be hired at the Cirus (transition studies and economic geography) group led by Bernhard Truffer and Christian Binz as part of the Environmental Social Science department at Eawag. The PhD students will graduate at Utrecht University where they will also have regular access to colleagues from the Copernicus Institute of sustainable development.

### **Your profile**

Applicants should have a background in transition or innovation studies, human/economic geography, organizational studies, management, sociology or similar disciplines. They should have expertise in qualitative methods and an interest in infrastructure or consumer product transitions. Previous experience in social network analysis, or analysis of large document stocks would be an asset but is no requirement. Proficient mastery of English is expected, knowledge of another official Swiss language is an advantage.

In your PhD project, you will do literature reviews, formulate research questions, collect and analyze data and write four publications. Cirus and the Copernicus institute are renowned for their collaborative research culture and their path-breaking contributions to the field of transition studies and economic geography. The position is fully funded for four years and preferably starts in March 2023.

**Eawag** is a modern employer and offers an excellent working environment where staff can contribute their strengths, experience and ways of thinking. We promote cultural and gender equality and are committed to staff diversity and inclusion. The compatibility of career and family is of central importance to us. For more information about Eawag and our work conditions please consult [www.eawag.ch](http://www.eawag.ch) and [www.eawag.ch/en/aboutus/working/employment](http://www.eawag.ch/en/aboutus/working/employment).

**Applications must be submitted by December 9, 2022** and should include an application letter, where you elaborate how you would approach the research topic and which of the two empirical cases you would be most interested in, as well as a CV, names of two references, and a writing sample (e.g. chapter of your master thesis, conference article or published article) via the Eawag job portal; the link below will redirect you to the application form.

Questions about the position can be directed to Prof. Bernhard Truffer E-mail: [bernhard.truffer@eawag.ch](mailto:bernhard.truffer@eawag.ch) Tel.: +41 58 765 56 70 (no applications).

If you are excited about working on this timely and challenging research topic within an international and interdisciplinary research team and with the excellent research facilities that Eawag has to offer, then we are looking forward to hearing from you.

<https://apply.refline.ch/673277/0986/pub/1/index.html>