

Mise au Concours

Poste de doctorant-e sur une durée de 3 ans dès le 1.3.2016

(Financement : Fonds National Suisse de la Recherche Scientifique)

L'Institut de Géographie de l'Université de Neuchâtel met au concours un poste de doctorat dans le cadre du projet « Power and Space in the Drone Age » financé par le FNS (1.3.2016-28.2.2019). Cette recherche vise à mieux comprendre les chances et risques liés à l'usage croissant de drones civils en Suisse (voir résumé ci-dessous).

Le ou la candidat-e sera détenteur/trice d'un titre de Master en géographie humaine (ou éventuellement dans une autre discipline des sciences sociales, telles que l'anthropologie sociale ou la sociologie). Il/elle doit - pour effectuer le travail de terrain - parler le français couramment et avoir une bonne maîtrise de l'anglais et de l'allemand (oral et écrit). Il/elle dispose également d'une solide formation en méthodes qualitatives et (si possible) quantitatives.

Nous recherchons une personne scientifiquement ambitieuse, autonome, appréciant le travail interdisciplinaire et capable de présenter ses recherches à un public international par la participation à des conférences et à des publications internationales.

L'entrée en fonction est au 1^{er} mars 2016. Le salaire varie entre 47'000 et 50'000 CHF/an entre la 1^e et la 3^e année de projet. Si ce poste vous intéresse, veuillez envoyer un dossier de postulation (**un seul document PDF**) contenant :

- Votre CV
- Des copies de vos diplôme(s) avec les notes obtenues
- Une lettre de motivation incluant vos objectifs scientifiques et personnels en lien avec la réalisation d'une thèse de doctorat sur ce sujet
- Les noms et adresses emails de deux personnes prêtes à agir comme référents

Le dossier est à envoyer **jusqu'au 4 décembre** au secrétariat de géographie de l'université de Neuchâtel (secretariat.geographie@unine.ch). (A noter : Les entretiens d'embauche auront lieu entre le 10 et le 20 décembre). Des informations complémentaires peuvent être demandées aux initiateurs du projet : Prof. Francisco Klauser (francisco.klauser@unine.ch) et Silvana Pedrozo (silvana.pedrozo@unine.ch)

Job offer

PhD scholarship for 3 years starting 1.3.2016

(funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation)

The Institute of Geography at Neuchâtel University (Switzerland) offers a PhD scholarship for the research project "Power and Space in the Drone Age", funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (1.3.2016-28.2.2019). The research aims to better understand the current developments, the functioning and the implications of non-military drone use in Switzerland (see summary below).

The applicant should have a Master's degree in human geography (or, possibly, in social and cultural psychology, social anthropology, sociology). She/he should be fluent in French (indispensable for fieldwork) and have a good level in spoken as well as written English and German. Skills in qualitative methodologies as well as (possibly) in quantitative methodologies are necessary.

We expect the applicant to be scientifically ambitious, to have a strong interest in interdisciplinary research and to be autonomous in her/his work. We also expect her/him to present the results of the research in international conferences and publications.

The appointment date is the 1st of March 2016. The yearly salary varies between 47'000 and 50'000CHF between year one and three. Interested candidates are asked to send a **single pdf-file** containing:

- Your CV
- Copies of your diplomas with your grades
- A letter of application in which you state your motivation as well as your scientific and personal aims in relation with a PhD on this theme
- The names and emails of two referees

It must be sent until **December 4 2015** to secretariat.geographie@unine.ch. (Please note: The job interviews are expected to be done between 10-20 December). Further information can be obtained by contacting the project initiators Prof. Francisco Klauser (Francisco.klauser@unine.ch) and Silvana Pedrozo (Silvana.pedrozo@unine.ch).

Research Summary: Power and Space in the Drone Age

Camera-fitted drones are now easily affordable to the public. In Switzerland, 20,000 drones are currently estimated to be in public and private use. The resulting proliferation of the 'aerial gaze' raises a series of critical questions. These range from the changing regimes of visibility across urban and rural space to the novel dynamics of control and resistance implied by current drone developments. In addressing these issues, the project pursues a specifically politico-geographical approach, which starts from the basic assumption that a distinct 'spatial curiosity' and 'power sensitivity' are required to understand the logics, functioning and implications of drones.

Hereby, three main conceptual literatures are combined. (1) Drawing upon Actor Network Theory, drones are understood as dynamic socio-technical assemblages that result from a wide range of processes, power relationships and mediations. (2) In their acting on the envisioned reality, drones are conceived as aero-visual techniques of power in a Foucauldian sense. And (3) through the adoption of a Lefebvrian understanding of (social) space, combined with a geographical approach to mediation and power as developed by Claude Raffestin, the project investigates and conceptualises the relation between drones and space.

Overall, the analytical ambition of the project is to understand the dynamics underpinning the current proliferation of non-military drones, the modalities of use and thus changing forms and formats of visibility and control from above this implies, and the socio-spatial implications this has. Thus, from a specifically politico-geographical viewpoint, the project sets out to investigate the (1) current developments, the (2) functioning and the (3) implications of non-military drone use in Switzerland (centring hereby on the study of un-armed, camera-fitted aerial vehicles between 0.5-30 kilos). Channelled through these analytical levels, the project aspires to more fully conceptualise the role of the aerial dimension in the projection of power across and within space.

The empirical response to the project's analytical and conceptual ambitions lies in the detailed study of the planning, development and operation of particular 'drone assemblages'. This is achieved through the combination of both qualitative and quantitative research methods. More specifically, the project considers three broad fields of drone utilization: (1) Drone uses by public authorities; (2) commercially motivated drone uses; and (3) drone uses by the general public. The first two fields are studied through the investigation of four case studies, relating to the domains of policing, risk management/disaster relief, commercial imaging/filming and mapping. The study of the third field is based on one case study that focusses on the use of drones in the context of recreational drone associations, whilst also involving a quantitative survey that allows the investigation of the practices of drone hobbyists more widely.