

## MISE AU CONCOURS / CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### UN POSTE DE DOCTORANT-E A 100% / 1 PhD STUDENT FULL-TIME POSITION

Université de Neuchâtel, Institut de sociologie  
Chaire d'économie territoriale

University of Neuchâtel, Institute of Sociology  
Chair of Territorial Economy

<b>ENTREE EN FONCTION</b>	1 <sup>er</sup> avril 2021
<b>TITRE EXIGE</b>	Master en sciences sociales (sociologie, géographie, sciences politiques...) ou économiques.
<b>DESCRIPTIF DU POSTE</b>	Réalisation d'une thèse de doctorat en lien avec la thématique du projet de recherche financé par le Fonds national suisse (FNS) " <i>Le nouveau rôle de l'immobilier dans le développement urbain en Suisse : faits et recadrage théorique</i> ", dirigé par Thierry Theurillat et Olivier Crevoisier (cf. ci-après).  Soutien à l'enseignement en économie territoriale.
<b>COMPETENCES SOUHAITEES</b>	Des connaissances et expériences des méthodes qualitatives et quantitatives sont un atout. Intérêt à travailler dans une approche multidisciplinaire. Intérêt pour les questions de développement régional et urbain.  Connaissances souhaitées du contexte institutionnel suisse.  Volonté de s'insérer dans un petit groupe de chercheur-euse-s (4 personnes) et de réaliser un travail individuel dans la thématique de recherche.
<b>LANGUES</b>	Français et anglais indispensables (oral et écrit). Allemand bienvenu.
<b>DUREE DU CONTRAT</b>	4 ans
<b>TRAITEMENT</b>	Selon les barèmes du FNS : <a href="http://www2.unine.ch/srh/page-37385.html">http://www2.unine.ch/srh/page-37385.html</a>
<b>CE QUI EST OFFERT</b>	Bonnes conditions de recherche au sein d'une équipe en économie territoriale à l'Institut de Sociologie de l'Université de Neuchâtel et à la Haute école de gestion Arc à Neuchâtel.  Insertion dans un réseau de recherche international (Brésil, Chine, France et États-Unis).

Les dossiers de candidature doivent contenir un *curriculum vitae*, y compris une liste de publications et une copie des titres obtenus, ainsi qu'une *proposition de projet de recherche* (1 page maximum) en lien avec la thématique du projet de recherche FNS (voir résumé ci-après en anglais). Les dossiers sont à transmettre jusqu'au 31 janvier 2021 par courrier électronique à l'adresse [mes-sagerie.socio@unine.ch](mailto:mes-sagerie.socio@unine.ch).

Pour de plus amples informations, veuillez contacter Dr. Thierry Theurillat ([thierry.theurillat@he-arc.ch](mailto:thierry.theurillat@he-arc.ch)) ou Prof. Dr. Olivier Crevoisier ([olivier.crevoisier@unine.ch](mailto:olivier.crevoisier@unine.ch))

*Les places mises au concours par l'Université de Neuchâtel sont ouvertes indifféremment aux femmes et aux hommes.*

<b>STARTING DATE</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021
<b>REQUIRED EDUCATION</b>	Master's degree in social sciences (Sociology, Geography, Political Science, etc.) or in economy.
<b>JOB DESCRIPTION</b>	Development of a PhD research related to the topic of the Swiss national foundation project " <i>The changing role of real estate in Swiss urban development: evidence and theoretical reframing</i> ", led by Thierry Theurillat and Olivier Crevoisier (see below)  Teaching support in courses of Territorial Economy.
<b>DESIRED SKILLS</b>	Some knowledge and practical experience with qualitative research and quantitative methods is a plus. Interest in regional and urban development issue is necessary. Interest for working in an interdisciplinary approach.  Knowledge about the Swiss institutional context is recommended.  Motivation to work in a small research group (4 people) and to accomplish an individual research within the frame of the SNF project.
<b>LANGUAGES</b>	French and English are required (spoken and written). German is welcome.
<b>TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT</b>	4 years.
<b>SALARY</b>	Salary based on the SNF scheme: <a href="http://www2.unine.ch/srh/page-37385.html">http://www2.unine.ch/srh/page-37385.html</a>
<b>WHAT IS WE OFFER</b>	Good research conditions within a small team in territorial economy at the Institute of Sociology of the University of Neuchâtel and at the University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland in Neuchâtel.  Collaboration in an international research network (Brazil, China, France and USA).

Applicants have to provide a *curriculum vitae*, including publications and copies of education certificates, as well as a short research proposal (1 page maximum) in relation to the SNF research project (see lay summary below). Applications have to be sent by email to [messagerie.socio@unine.ch](mailto:messagerie.socio@unine.ch) by 31 January 2021.

For more information about the position, please contact Dr. Thierry Theurillat ([thierry.theurillat@hearc.ch](mailto:thierry.theurillat@hearc.ch)) or Prof. Dr. Olivier Crevoisier ([olivier.crevoisier@unine.ch](mailto:olivier.crevoisier@unine.ch))

*Call for applications in the University of Neuchâtel are equally open to women and men*

SNF Research summary: **The changing role of real estate in Swiss urban development: Evidence and theoretical reframing**

In traditional urban and regional development theories, real estate (RE) is stimulated by the export sector, which then generates local demand. RE has however been booming worldwide for the last twenty years, as evidenced in the considerable monetary creation on global and national levels. The present-day Swiss situation provides this research with its two main aims: one, to identify the main economic foundations that appear to increase local revenues and that drive urban and regional development in Switzerland for that period; two, to reframe urban development theories via the integration of changes occurring in RE investment circuits.

According to the key literature on the financialization of real estate, the RE boom is primarily due to **the money created or pooled by various mechanisms related to the global financial system** (Aalbers, 2019; Halbert & Attuyer, 2016; Weber, 2015). However, the traditional literature on regional and urban development (Hoyt, 1954; Moulaert & Sekia, 2003; Porter, 1998; Scott, 2017) still regards RE as a **by-product of regional economic competitiveness and/or attractiveness**. Our central research question asks: **How and to what extent has real estate played a driving role in contemporary urban and regional economic development in Switzerland since early 2000 up to now?** Naturally, patterns of growth differ greatly between industrial regions, alpine tourist resorts, multicultural cities and rural spaces. RE development is also dependent on connections to national and global financial circuits, as well as the local capacity to develop large RE projects, aspects this project will consider in two ways.

Firstly, regarding the economic foundations, this research will identify **the combination between productive and consumption/presential-based activities** of Swiss regions. Based on the notion of a 'presential economy' (Guex, 2014; Vollet et al., 2014), it has been argued that the role of presential activities (consumption, leisure, culture and residency) have grown and specifically materialized in large RE development projects. Secondly, current investments in RE arise from a **combination of two main financial circuits**. Switzerland has still a decentralized banking system fueling RE in the form of mortgages and credits to households and the local real estate industry. Simultaneously, over the last twenty years, financial players have funded major RE projects in large as well as lower-tier cities. These combinations tend to be territorially distinct and dependent on 'urban milieus'; dependent on the local and extra-local players who have coordinated and negotiated the conditions of urban development over the last twenty years. Based on the Swiss context, this research aims to reframe regional and urban development theories via improved integration of the RE sector and its linkage to global finance.

Methodologically, this research combines various public and private datasets. First of all, it aims to situate RE data in its urban, regional and national context over the last twenty years, and secondly it seeks to articulate RE investment with the types of drivers of urban revenue. An initial typology of urban and regional markets' dynamics articulating RE investments and basic economic activities will be thus elaborated at the national scale. Then, out of this first typology, city case studies of five cities will be undertaken in order to capture the role of the coordination of urban milieus towards RE investment and economic development in these cities. The findings of this research will contribute to a better understanding of RE development over the last twenty years, specifically in relation to the increasing role of external demand for consumption and residency on the one hand, and the importance of financial circuits relationship to both bank and financialized capital on the other.