



Job Advertisement

The Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space (IRS) in Erkner near Berlin, a non-university research organisation and member of the Leibniz Association, is looking for a

PhD researcher (f/m/d, 65%, TV-L E13).

in the project “Sharing - Caring - Transitioning” (working title) in the Research Area “Economy and Civil Society”. The position is initially limited to twelve months, an extension for a further three years on the basis of a convincing exposé for a doctoral project is expressly sought.

Project Description:

The research project deals with the transformative potential of “sharing”. Against the backdrop of finding (innovative) solutions to societal challenges in socio-ecological change, new attention is being paid to forms of sharing and new meaning is being attributed to them. The emphasis is not primarily on sharing surplus or only partially used assets (as in the sharing economy, for example), but rather on sharing ownership and profit (both in terms of financial and other forms of added value). Specific forms of organization are often set up for this purpose, such as social enterprises, cooperatives or platform cooperatives. These value-based forms of sharing are often linked to missions to drive social change. The development of these values and their valorisation is based on intensive, often conflictual negotiation processes between participants. For example, some cooperatives meander between profit-oriented and community-oriented action and activities. They have to find compromises between social values, missions and sustainable economic development in order to develop their transformative character. Against this background, the project aims to understand the conditions under which sharing can contribute to socially established and spatially distributed transformative practices.

The project starts in January 2026. In 2025, the research fellow to be hired will conceptualize the future lead project of the Research Area, work out the research questions and develop the research design in collaboration with the project leader and other team members. At the same time, this offers the opportunity to develop a subsequent doctoral project.

Your tasks:

- Theoretical-conceptual and empirical collaboration in the lead project
- Preparing, planning, implementing and analysing empirical work as part of the project outlined above
- Collaboration on organizational tasks in the entire research process of the lead project
- Preparation of an outline for a PhD-project associated with the advertised project
- Publication of research results in peer-reviewed international journals
- Presentation of research results at national and international events
- Preparation of the research results for an extended target group (contribution to science communication, involvement of practitioners)

Your profile:

- Very good university degree (Master's level) in a social science discipline, for example human geography, spatial sciences, organizational sciences or other disciplines with a spatial focus
- Proven knowledge of qualitative empirical social research methods
- Knowledge in the field of new forms of work and economies, e.g:
 - Social entrepreneurship, alternative / solidary forms of work and economies
 - Sharing and participation

- Transformation
- Digitalisation and work
- Theoretical knowledge of topics such as relational spaces, creativity, (knowledge) work, digitalization, transition theory
- Very good written and spoken German and English (further language skills are welcome)
- Independent working style, openness to interdisciplinary collaboration, very good communication skills

Our offer:

The IRS offers varied position with an innovative and interdisciplinary team in a dynamic scientific environment. Working in an interdisciplinary scientific team gives you the freedom to design and carry out your own PhD-project, which is thematically linked to the above outlined lead project or the research topics of the Research Group "Creativity and Work". A self-organized group of doctoral students organizes regular meetings, scientific exchange and an annual retreat. Through various, national and international cooperation with other researchers and research organisations as well as event series of the IRS, the potential candidate finds good networking opportunities as well as opportunities for research and exchange stays abroad. The IRS also offers a wide range of opportunities for continuous professional development and is committed to the health care of its employees.

Further points are:

- Remuneration and social benefits in line with TV-L
- Flexible working hours and the option of mobile working
- Family-friendly working conditions - IRS has been awarded the "Berufundfamilie" certificate as a family-friendly employer since 2015
- Employer subsidy for the job ticket

The IRS guarantees professional equality for all persons in accordance with the Federal Equal Opportunities Act (BGleG) and strives for an open and non-discriminatory work culture. We expressly welcome applications from women. If equally qualified, applicants with special needs will be given preference.

If this job advertisement appeals to you, please send your application documents (motivation letter, CV, certificates (of degrees), references, a one-page outline / idea description of a potential PhD project, stating the **reference number 1524** in a PDF file by e-mail by 08. 01.2025 to bewerbung@leibniz-irs.de.

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For questions, please reach out to Prof. Dr. Suntje Schmidt: suntje.schmidt@leibniz-irs.de,
 + 49(0)3362/793-172

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