

# 1 POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER / 2 DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

26 February 2020

The Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL) is seeking qualified candidates for the positions of 1 Post-doctoral researcher and 2 Doctoral Researchers within its "Regional Geographies of Europe" department.

The IfL is an independent research institute with currently around 80 employees and member of the Leibniz Association. It is financially supported by the State of Saxony and the Federal Republic of Germany through the framework for joint research funding. The advertised positions will be embedded into the Institute's research group on "Mobilities and Migration", which pays particular attention to mobilities and power relations, the interplay between mobility and socio-spatial inclusion and exclusion processes, socially embedded norms and gendered social practices.

The position is part of the upcoming Leibniz Junior Research Group "Contentious Mobilities through a decolonial lens" (CoMoDe), funded by the Leibniz Association. The project proposes a decolonial, non-technocratic and politicised perspective on mobility transitions. It emphasises their contentious character and the underlying conflictual experiences of modernisation, digitalisation and globalisation. We explore unintended consequences and adverse effects, complex local-to-global, core-to-periphery (and back) dynamics of mobility transitions and their everyday negotiations. Doing so, we adopt a decolonial perspective to explore dependencies, inequalities and conditions of coloniality in terms of knowledge and power disparities.

Empirically, the project is set at the post-Soviet periphery, where mobility transitions arise in most salient and contentious ways. The region is marked by sharp crisis and change and multi-layered conditions of modernity and coloniality. This project intends to combine critical mobilities research and post-Soviet decolonial thinking. Doing so, CoMoDe opens up new pathways for devising policy instruments able to contribute to environmentally viable and socially inclusive mobility futures, in the post-Soviet area and beyond.

For research and knowledge transfer activities in the project framework, we are seeking one postdoctoral researcher (for five years starting from July 2020), and two doctoral researchers (for four years starting from November 2020). These positions will complement the existing team composed by the project leader and one associated postdoctoral fellow, and jointly delve into dynamics, processes, policies and actors of post-Soviet mobility transitions.

All positions requires frequent travelling to case study regions and project-related events. We look for a proactive, motivated, autonomous and open-minded person with a well-developed team spirit and innovation skills.

The IfL follows the goal of professional equality of women and men. Applications from qualified women are most welcome. Recognised persons with disabilities receive preference by equal qualification. We welcome applications from individuals with a migration background.

For further questions, please contact the project leader Dr Wladimir Sgibnev ([w\\_sgibnev@leibniz-ifl.de](mailto:w_sgibnev@leibniz-ifl.de))

## **POSITION 1: POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER (75 % E 13 TV-L) (F/M/D)**

The postdoctoral researcher is planned to deliver a thorough, quantitatively oriented and theoretically informed analysis of policy trajectories in post-Soviet mobility governance, and thus, to provide a yet inexistent, data-driven, account on the variety and scope of possible policy trajectories in mobility transitions. This shall be achieved by attending to the waves of closure and investment, rolling stock purchases and infrastructure and maintenance expenditures, socio-economic survey and census data, based on database scrapping and analysis (e.g. in official and crowdsourced databases), synthesis of policy documents and a close cooperation with the IfL cartography and visualisation department. Qualitative triangulation through interviews, participant observation, media analysis etc. is a plus.

### **WE OFFER:**

a five-year position with flexible working arrangements, a positive work climate and integration into a highly motivated research group dedicated to mobilities and migration studies;  
family-friendly working conditions that encourage the compatibility of work and family life;  
the possibility for implementing own ideas within the CoMoDe project;  
support for academic career development, incl. habilitation;  
fieldwork and conference participation grants, publication support, tailored trainings.

### **YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:**

contributions to a theory framework on decolonial perspectives on mobility transitions;  
development and implementation of an own, transnational and comparative, research agenda in close cooperation with the research team;  
conduct own research, incl. fieldwork and data analysis;  
work package-related organisational activities and contribution to network-wide events such as workshops or summer schools;  
presentation and dissemination of results through conference participation and publications, knowledge transfer and outreach activities;  
contribution to the profile development of the “Mobilities and Migration” research group.

### **OUR EXPECTATIONS:**

a university diploma in a related discipline (transport planning, human geography, sociology etc.) and a completed high-quality PhD, thematically connected to the research project;

relevant research experience in quantitative space and mobility research in a post-Soviet/postsocialist context, or a proven willingness and ability to engage with the target region;

familiarity with relevant literature and theories in critical transport geography and mobility studies in general, and exposure to mobility, transformation and urban research writings in a post-Soviet/postsocialist context;

relevant, internationally visible publication record;

proven data analysis and visualisation skills, including the familiarity with relevant software;

communication skills and the ambition to make an impact outside of academic circles;

project management experience;

knowledge of or interest in qualitative research methods and a willingness to develop mixed-method approaches to the research in question;

very good knowledge of English; knowledge of languages of the target region as well as German are welcome.

#### YOUR APPLICATION:

Please send your application package as e-mail attachment in a single pdf file to [personal@leibniz-ifl.de](mailto:personal@leibniz-ifl.de).

Please indicate “Postdoc CoMoDe” as the subject of your application mail. Please include the following documents:

a cover letter indicating your motivation to work at the IfL and the Mobilities and Migration research group, and addressing the abovementioned responsibilities and expectations of the position (1500 words max.);

an outline of the proposed postdoctoral research project (1500 words max.);

an up-to-date CV incl. a list of publications, teaching experiences and third-party funding applications (2 pages max.);

a copy of one relevant publication;

pertinent further documents including university diplomas and the PhD certificate, or an official confirmation of thesis submission.

Invited candidates will receive a hands-on dataset-based assignment in preparation for the interview which is scheduled to take place in May at the IfL premises in Leipzig.

By submitting the application, you consent to the processing of your personal data for the purpose of the application procedure.

Contact: Dr Wladimir Sgibnev ([w\\_sgibnev@leibniz-ifl.de](mailto:w_sgibnev@leibniz-ifl.de))

Deadline for applications: 2 April 2020

## **POSITION 2: DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS (65 % E 13 TV-L) (F/M/D)**

The doctoral researchers are expected to work on theoretically informed and empirically grounded comparative case studies delving into the actors, processes and policies in mobility transitions. CoMoDe doctoral researchers will be hosted at Leipzig University's graduate school "Global and Area studies" and will be supported by an international supervisory board including scholars from the post-Soviet region and the global South. Each doctoral project necessarily defines its own individual case studies and develops, with counselling provided by the entire project team, its own methodologies. Both research profiles should organically complement each other and are expected to work in close cooperation with each other and the entire project team.

On an indicative basis, the project may develop along the following two lines – Nevertheless candidates should not feel constrained by these preliminary ideas): One candidate project might delve into processes of public transport maintenance and expansion, e.g. exploring how either Soviet nostalgia or Europeanisation paradigms have been made fruitful in pursuing mobility transition goals (with cases based, e.g. in Belarus and the Baltic republics). The second candidate might pursue processes of closure and disinvestment, with a particular attention to marginal resistances to these processes. This project might thus reveal policy motivations for not adopting the normatively loaded mobility transitions agenda and the "weapons of the poor" who, successfully or not, stand up against these policies.

### **WE OFFER:**

a four-year position with flexible working arrangements, a positive work climate and integration into a highly motivated research group dedicated to mobilities and migration studies;  
family-friendly working conditions that encourage the compatibility of work and family life;  
the possibility for implementing own ideas within the CoMoDe project;  
support for academic career development, incl. participation and counselling through the graduate school "Global and Area studies" and the Institute's young researchers' group;  
exceptional supervisory arrangements through the project's postdoctoral members and the advisory board;  
fieldwork and conference participation grants, publication support, tailored trainings.

### **YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:**

contributions to a theory framework on decolonial perspectives on mobility transitions;  
development and implementation of an own, transnational and comparative, research agenda in close cooperation with the research team,  
conduct own research, incl. fieldwork and data analysis;

work package-related organisational activities and contribution to network-wide events presentation and dissemination of results through conference participation and publications, knowledge transfer and outreach activities;  
contribution to the profile development of the “Mobilities and Migration” research group.

#### OUR EXPECTATIONS:

a university diploma in a related discipline (human geography, transport planning, anthropology, cultural studies etc.);  
relevant research experience in a post-Soviet/postsocialist context or a proven willingness and ability to engage with the target region;  
familiarity with relevant literature and theories, incl. mobility studies and urban research in a post-Soviet/postsocialist context;  
well-developed methodological skills with pertinence to the proposed research project and a willingness to develop mixed-method approaches to the research in question;  
communication skills and the ambition to make an impact outside of academic circles;  
project management experience;  
very good knowledge of English and relevant languages for fieldwork in the target region; knowledge of German is a plus.

#### YOUR APPLICATION:

Please send your application package as e-mail attachment in a single pdf file which is not larger than 20 MB to [personal@leibniz-ifl.de](mailto:personal@leibniz-ifl.de).

Please indicate “PhD CoMoDe” as the subject of your application mail. Please include the following documents:

a cover letter indicating your motivation to work at the IfL and the Mobilities and Migration research group, and addressing the abovementioned responsibilities and expectations of the position (1500 words max.);  
an outline of the proposed doctoral research project (1500 words max.);  
an up-to-date CV;  
relevant further documents including university diplomas.

By submitting the application, you consent to the processing of your personal data for the purpose of the application procedure.

Contact: Dr Wladimir Sgibnev ([w\\_sgibnev@leibniz-ifl.de](mailto:w_sgibnev@leibniz-ifl.de))

Deadline for applications: 12 April 2020

<https://leibniz-ifl.de/en/career-1/open-positions/open-positions-details/1-post-doctoral-researcher-2-doctoral-researchers?fbclid=IwAR3IBF6KBtgUAKxzQkpdhEQMM1JRkIIUNXFc2sPvjAZ8MNp10PsE3BzVJeQ>