

The Department of Sociology at the Paris Lodron University of Salzburg (PLUS) invites applications for a Ph.D./prae-doc position, beginning in April 2022, for a total period of 46 months. The position is anchored in the project [“VISION: Envisioning Convivial Europe”](#), funded by the Volkswagen Foundation.

By rendering visible the stories and visual images of, and with, local residents and mobile workers from Central and Eastern Europe, VISION aims to co-generate critical and transformative knowledge of a more just, sustainable and convivial Europe. The successful applicant will be part of the PLUS Team (PI, Ph.D. researcher, and student assistants) who will contribute to collecting data on and analyzing the life conditions in ‘inner-peripheries’ in Germany (Brandenburg) and Romania/Poland. S/He will examine thus far overlooked interlinkages between these peripherized places in Europe.

Candidates with solid training and experience in visual methods generally, and ethnographic(-documentary) filming making in particular, are encouraged to apply. The Ph.D. researcher is expected to conduct fieldwork and participate in dissemination activities (workshops, exhibitions, etc.). Through the VISION project, the Ph.D. researcher will be(come) familiar with creative and mixed methods, and gain teaching experience. The successful postholder will have access to international networks of academic, social, and creative actors in this field.

The main tasks will include:

- planning and conducting your own research in the framework of the VISION project (including international travel);
- completing your PhD thesis in 46 months;
- contributing to the conceptualization, methodology and data collection of the overall project, in particular those aspects related to visual methods;
- conducting workshops on mobile phone filming for research participants;
- participating in project meetings and events;
- contributing to team publications and reports;
- holding national and international conference presentations;
- co-conceptualizing and conducting mobile VISION exhibitions to ‘imagine’ and propose policy recommendations with research participants (public engagement);
- co-organizing team workshops and conferences;
- undertaking any other duties relevant to the research program; and
- teaching Master/Bachelor students affiliated with the project.

Rough schedule of the Ph.D. study:

The first half year will mainly be devoted to finalizing the PhD proposal, followed by pilot fieldwork in the second half of the year. The second year will focus on data collection, in particular fieldwork in Brandenburg and Romania/Poland. In the third year, the candidate will prepare her/his PhD manuscript. Follow-up data collection and updates will be conducted in order to fill gaps identified. The last year is for writing and finalizing the thesis.

**Your profile:**

- Master's degree in Social Sciences (Sociology, Geography, Anthropology, Migration Studies, Communications, Media Studies, and Political Science) or a comparable background;
- Knowledge in transnationalism, labor migration, mobility studies, gender studies, and uneven development;
- Proven experience in empirical social research;
- Proven experience in creative, visual methods, more specifically in ethnographic(-documentary) filmmaking, including editing and sound arrangement;
- Committed to advancing critical and interdisciplinary perspectives on the issue of social injustices and uneven development in Europe;
- Critical thinker, analytical skills, and open-mindedness,
- Ability to work independently while being a good team player;
- Experience and interest in public engagement, such as research communication, e.g. via exhibitions, digital media, for wider audiences;
- Flexibility and ability to work under tight deadlines;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in German and English; and
- Knowledge of Romanian, and/or Polish and socio-cultural context will be considered an advantage.

**What we offer you:**

The position offers employment of 30 hours per week for a maximum period of 46 months (standard contract in Austria). You will be pursuing your Ph.D. in an energetic and international working environment across multiple locations (Salzburg, Berlin, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Brandenburg, Poland and Romania), with Salzburg as the main base.

VISION consists of an interdisciplinary team, ranging from Sociology, Geography, and Transnational Migration Studies to Gender Studies. Team members consist of three senior researchers, two midcareer researchers, another Ph.D. candidate and student assistants, based at the DeZIM ("Deutsches Zentrum für Integrations- und Migrationsforschung") in Berlin, the University of Amsterdam, the University of Utrecht as well as at the PLUS.

At the Department of Sociology in Salzburg, you will be embedded in the internationally oriented, inspiring, vibrant team "Social Change and Mobilities" (SCM) with three researchers and regular visiting scholars.

Depending on your previous educational profile, you will either be enrolled at the Graduate School for Social Sciences at the PLUS, or, alternatively, ["Wissenschaft +](#)

Kunst", which is a collaborative Graduate Program between the University of Mozarteum and the PLUS, combining Social Scientific and Artistic course work.

Your starting gross monthly salary will be ~€ 2,196, as stipulated in the [Collective Labor Agreement of Austrian University \(Kollektivvertrag für die ArbeitnehmerInnen der Universitäten\)](#). There will be two additional monthly payments a year.

**The envisaged starting date is April 1, 2022.**

Interested candidates should submit the following documents (in one PDF file) to Lucia Wöß ([lucia.woess@plus.ac.at](mailto:lucia.woess@plus.ac.at)) by February 8, 2022:

- A two-page letter of motivation covering why you would be a good fit;
- a CV with a link to your visual output;
- two references whom we might contact;
- a writing sample (must not be published);
- a transcript of records; and
- graduation certificates;

If you have any questions or if you require additional information, please contact:

Professor Kyoko Shinozaki, Ph.D., [kyoko.shinozaki@plus.ac.at](mailto:kyoko.shinozaki@plus.ac.at)

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