The collaborative research centre Transregio 212 “A Novel Synthesis of Individualisation across Behaviour, Ecology and Evolution: Niche Choice, Niche Conformance, Niche Construction (NC3)”, subproject D02 (Jun. Prof. Dr. Marie I. Kaiser), offers a part-time research position (PhD position in Philosophy of Biology) starting as soon as possible (€13 TV-L, non-permanent position).

Your Tasks

The aim of the PhD project (sub-project D02 of the collaborative research centre) is to explicate the ontological status of individualised ecological niches and how they relate to mechanisms of niche choice, conformance, and construction. This project thus clarifies three concepts that are central to the collaborative research centre: the concept of biological individuality (and related concepts of individualisation and animal personality), the concept of an individualised (social) niche, and the concept of an ecological or evolutionary mechanism. The PhD student will interact with the biological projects and engage with the relevant philosophical literature to specify the meaning of these concepts, to reveal their ontological commitments, and to disclose their implications.

Full details of the CRC can be found at http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/biologie/crc212/D02.html

The main tasks will be the following:

- research tasks (90 %)
  - reading relevant philosophical literature on mechanisms, (biological) individuality and metaphysics of science
  - developing philosophical accounts of individuality and of ecological/evolutionary mechanisms and applying them to the biological projects
  - acquiring and implementing methodological skills in philosophically analysing science
- collaboration with other research groups in the collaborative research centre
- collaboration with the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies of Science (I2SOS) (https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/i2sos)
- writing publications for international journals
- organizational tasks in the research group and collaborative research centre (10 %)

Your Profile

We expect

- university degree in a relevant discipline, e. g. philosophy, philosophy of science, biology, science studies
- willingness to interact with colleagues in an interdisciplinary setting
- high ability to work both independently and as part of a team
- good proficiency in written and spoken English

Remuneration

Salary will be paid according to Remuneration level 13 of the Wage Agreement for Public Service in the Federal States (TV-L). As stipulated in § 2 (1) sentence 1 of the WissZeitVG, the contract will end on December 31, 2021. In accordance with the provisions of the WissZeitVG and the Agreement on Satisfactory Conditions of Employment, the length of contract may differ in individual cases. The employment is designed to encourage further academic qualification. The position is advertised as a 65 % part-time job. In individual cases, this percentage may be reduced on request, as long as this does not conflict with official needs.

Bielefeld University is particularly committed to equal opportunities and the career development of its employees. It offers attractive internal and external training and further training programmes. Employees have the opportunity to use a variety of health, counselling, and prevention programmes. Bielefeld University places great importance on a work-family balance for all its employees.

Application Procedure

To apply, please provide (i) a letter of motivation including a statement of your research interests, motivation and expectation from being part of the SFB, (ii) a CV including information about academic education and degrees, and, where it applies, professional experience, publications, fellowships/stipends, conference contributions, and further relevant skills and abilities, (iii) transcript of records, (iv) Master’s thesis abstract and (v) 1-2 letters of recommendation from former supervisors. All materials should be sent as a single PDF file to kaiser.m@uni-bielefeld.de by the 1st of February 2018. Please mark your application with the identification code wiss17387. Please do not use application portfolios and send only photocopies of original documents because Bielefeld University can be found on our homepage at www.uni-bielefeld.de.

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Bielefeld University has received a number of awards for its achievements in the provision of equal opportunity and has been recognised as a family friendly university. The University welcomes applications from women. This is particularly true with respect to both to academic and technical posts as well as positions in Information Technology and Trades and Craft. Applications are handled according to the provisions of the state equal opportunity statutes. Applications from suitably qualified handicapped and severely handicapped persons are explicitly encouraged.

Further details can be found on the University’s homepage at www.uni-bielefeld.de/index.html.

www.uni-bielefeld.de