Your Tasks
The advertised position is part of the project on “Complex Biological Dispositions: A Case Study in the Metaphysics of Biological Practice” (PI: Prof. Dr. Marie I. Kaiser) in the DFG-funded research group “Inductive Metaphysics” (FOR 2495, https://indmet.weebly.com/).

The project asks what biological dispositions are, how they are individuated, whether they are extrinsic and come in degrees, and how they relate to their causal basis and to (underlying) biological mechanisms. We address these metatheoretical questions by analyzing four paradigmatic examples of dispositions studied in the biological sciences: the pluripotency of stem cells, the boldness of animals, the evolvability of populations, and the sustainability of human actions or development. The project is a study within Inductive Metaphysics, specifically in “metaphysics of biological practice” (Kaiser 2018, 29). We develop metaphysical claims about biological dispositions by using inductive methods that involve various kinds of empirical information from and about biological practice, such as information about how biologists investigate biological dispositions and about how disposition ascriptions figure in their explanatory practices. The goal of this project is to develop a practice-oriented metaphysical account of biological dispositions, which makes novel contributions to the philosophy of biology and yields interesting consequences for debates about dispositions within the metaphysics of science.

Your Profile
We expect
- university degree (Master or Diploma) in a discipline that is relevant to the project (e.g. philosophy, philosophy of science, biology, life sciences, science studies)
- willingness to work with colleagues in an interdisciplinary setting
- ability to work as a member of a team
- autonomous and active manner of working
- excellent coordination and organization skills
- good proficiency in written and spoken English
- willingness to contribute to organizing workshops and other events
- organizational tasks that are part of the self-administration of the university

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 (e.g. 65% of the wage agreement) the contract length may differ in individual cases. The employment is designed to encourage further academic qualification. The position is advertised as 65% part-time job. In individual cases, this percentage may be reduced on request, as long as this does not conflict with official needs.

Application Procedure
For full consideration, your application should be received via either post (see postal address below) or email (a single PDF document sent to bewerbung-pcphil@uni-bielefeld.de) by January 1st, 2020. Please mark your application with the identification code: wiss19304. To apply, please provide: (i) a letter of motivation including a statement of your research interests, motivation and expectation from being part of the research group/project; (ii) a CV including information about academic education and degrees, and, where it applies, professional experience, publications, fellowships or awards, conference contributions, and further relevant skills and abilities; (iii) transcript of records of your Master studies; (iv) short summary of your Master’s thesis (1 page); (v) a letter of recommendation. The application can be written in German or English. Please do not use application portfolio and send only photocopies of original documents because all application materials will be destroyed at the end of the selection procedure.

Further information on Bielefeld University can be found on our homepage at www.uni-bielefeld.de. Please note that the possibility of privacy breaches and unauthorized access by third parties cannot be excluded when communicating via unencrypted e-mail. Information on the processing of personal data is available at https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/universitaet/aktuelles/themenraussenrichtungen/2019_05-Hinweise_english.pdf.

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Bielefeld University has received a number of awards for its achievements in equity/opportunity and has been recognized as a family-friendly university. The university welcomes applications from women. This is particularly true with regard both to academic and technical posts as well as positions in information technology as well as the skilled crafts and trades. Applications are handled according to the provisions of the Equal Treatment Act with respect to equal opportunity. Applications from suitably qualified handicapped and severely handicapped persons are explicitly encouraged.