The Faculty of History, Philosophy and Theology, Department of Philosophy, offers a full-time research position (postdoctoral position) starting April 1st, 2020.

(E13 TV-L, non-permanent position)

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, what makes them complex, whether they are extrinsic and come in degrees, and how they relate to their causal basis and to (underlying) biological mechanisms. It addresses these methodological issues 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 responsibilities:
- conduct independent research in the context of the project described above and in related areas (80 %)
- actively participate in the regular meetings and events of the research group (10 %)
- contribute to organizing workshops and other events (5 %)
- organizational tasks that are part of the self-administration of the university (5 %)

Your Profile

We expect:
- university degree in a discipline that is relevant to the project (e.g. philosophy, philosophy of science, biology, life sciences, science studies)
- PhD in philosophy of science, metaphysics or in a related area of analytical philosophy
- independent and innovative research profile in philosophy of science or metaphysics
- experience in interdisciplinary research collaborations
- relevant publications in international, peer-reviewed journals or their concrete preparation
- autonomous and active manner of working
- excellent coordination and organization skills
- ability to work as a member of a team
- excellent proficiency in written and spoken English

Preferable qualifications:
- international orientation of research activities
- experience in organizing workshops and conferences
- international experience in academia

Remuneration

Salary will be paid according to Remuneration level 13 of the Wages Agreement for Public Service in the Federal States (TV-L). As stipulated in § 2 (1) sentence 1 of the WissZeitVG (fixed-term employment), the contract will end after three years. 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. In principle, these full-time position may be changed into a part-time post, 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

For full consideration, your application should be received via either post (see postal address below) or email (a single PDF document sent to bewerbung-gepfl@uni-bielefeld.de by January 1st, 2020). Please mark your application with the identification code: wiss19305. To apply, please provide the usual documents (CV including information about your academic education and degrees, professional experience, publications, conference contributions, and further relevant skills and abilities) and (1) a summary of your dissertation (2-3 pages), (2) an outline of your future research, which also points out why you want to work in the project described above (3-4 pages), (3) two of your best, relevant publications (at least one of them must be published). The application can be written in German or English. Please do not use application portfolios 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/de/universitaet/aktuelles/aktuuelles/20190305-foh-stellungseinschr-englisch.pdf.

Bielefeld University has received a number of awards for its achievements as an equal opportunity employer 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. The state statutes on equal opportunity, Applications from suitably qualified handicapped and severely handicapped persons are explicitly encouraged.

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).

This project asks what biological dispositions are, how they are individuated, what makes them complex, whether they are extrinsic and come in degrees, and how they relate to their causal basis and to (underlying) biological mechanisms. It addresses these methodological issues 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 responsibilities:
- Conduct independent research in the context of the project described above and in related areas (80 %)
- Actively participate in the regular meetings and events of the research group (10 %)
- Contribute to organizing workshops and other events (5 %)
- Organizational tasks that are part of the self-administration of the university (5 %)

Your profile

We expect:
- University degree in a discipline that is relevant to the project (e.g., philosophy, philosophy of science, biology, life sciences, science studies)
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