research position
starting February 1st, 2020
(up to E13 TV-L, non-permanent position)

Your Tasks
Forced migration, and resulting challenges relating to refugee health, are currently treated as highly exceptional, as a singularity. We postulate that this constitutes a socially as well as scientifically impoverished approach in two respects. Firstly, a singularity perspective may ultimately have adverse effects on the health of refugees because of the resulting ‘othering’ (processes, e.g. exclusion, spatial separation) and further social marginalisation of forced migrants. Secondly, treating challenges relating to refugee health as a singularity constitutes a missed opportunity for improving population health in general as it fails to realise an inherent analytical potential to identify broader deficiencies. In view of the diversity in Germany’s society today, refugee health can be interpreted as presenting an exacerbation and accumulation of factors that affect also other population subgroups, and ultimately – albeit to varying degrees – all members of society in Germany.

In PH-LENS we will analyse two such factors, (i) contextual (small-area) effects on health; and (ii) challenges to the health system (which we analyse using the concept of health system resilience), as well as their interactions, from a truly interdisciplinary perspective. ‘Othering’ as an analytical perspective will serve as a key theoretical link between these factors. We aim to identify health inequalities related to these factors, determine the underlying pathways including societal exclusion processes, and formulate concepts and strategies for reducing them. By rejecting the singularity perspective, our results, both in terms of methodology and of scientific content, will be applicable more broadly to public health in Germany’s increasingly diverse society. This innovative concept of PH-LENS clearly stands out from the work of many ongoing refugee health projects.

The Faculty of Health Sciences offers a part-time research position.

Salary will be paid depending on personal skills up to Remuneration level 13 of the Wage Agreement for Public Service in the Federal States (TV-L). As stipulated in § 2 (1) paragraph 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.

Your Profile
We expect

- a completed academic university degree (master, diploma or equivalent) or a relevant university degree and a far advanced master studies in a relevant field (public health, epidemiology, statistics, social sciences or human geography, all with health related content and a particularly strong statistical part)
- knowledge of R programming
- experience in the application of advanced statistics
- experience in Social epidemiology
- ability to organize tasks and to communicate effectively
- independent, self-reliant and committed way of working
- experience of spatial statistics
- experience in Social epidemiology
- cooperate and exchange with other researcher in the research project PH-LENS (5 %)

Preferable qualifications

- experience in the application of advanced statistics
- knowledge of R programing
- independent, self-reliant and committed way of working
- cooperative and team-oriented work ethic
- experience in the application of advanced statistics
- knowledge of R programing
- independent, self-reliant and committed way of working
- cooperate and exchange with other researcher in the research project PH-LENS (5 %)

Your Application

For full consideration, your application should be received via either post (see postal address below) or email (a single PDF document sent to odile.sauzet@uni-bielefeld.de by January 1st, 2020). Please mark your application with the identification code: 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
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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 here: https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/universitaet/datenschutz/datenschutzausschuss/meetings/2019_06-06-reverse_englisch.pdf.

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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 state statues on equal opportunity. Applications from suitably qualified handicapped and severely handicapped persons are explicitly encouraged.