



**University of  
Zurich** <sup>UZH</sup>

The Department of Geography at the University of Zurich is advertising

## **2 PhD positions in Human Geography / Geographies of Education**

(4 years, 60% each)

The successful applicants will be part of the SNF-research project on the topic **Young people's transition to Gymnasium and the role of private and public supplementary learning programs** led by Sara Landolt and Itta Bauer.

This project focusses on educational transitions to Gymnasium at the crossroads of increasing marketization of education and equality of opportunity through a case study in the City of Zurich. Drawing on qualitative methods, the research team will study the actors in this highly competitive educational environment, which is experiencing an unprecedented boom involving the learning programs of schools, profit-oriented private supplementary learning providers, and private non-profit initiatives. The target groups of our research in Zurich are young people at the two thresholds to Gymnasium and their parents, representatives of educational institutions and politics, private entrepreneurs, and people running nonprofit initiatives. We take a particular interest in the perspectives and experiences of young people (12-16 ys.) in this field.

We are looking for two candidates who seek to pursue a PhD in the context of this research project. Each candidate will be responsible for his/her own distinct work package entailing a number of ethnographic case studies. Applicants with an interest in critical social theories (including children's and young people's geographies, feminist, post-colonial and social justice perspectives) are particularly encouraged to apply.

Your main tasks include designing and realizing your own PhD project, contributing to our teaching program and participating in our regular research-related team activities, as well as carrying out limited administrative duties. Applicants are expected to hold an excellent master's degree in human geography, social or educational studies or any other relevant discipline. You have already some experience in qualitative research methods. We expect high ambitions for presenting and publishing internationally. Consequently, proficiency in German and English is an essential requirement.

We offer a stimulating and supportive work environment that provides plenty of opportunities to develop an academic career. As a PhD student, you will join the Graduate School of the Department of Geography which offers you great opportunities to interact and exchange with other PhD students. Diversity and inclusion are important and matter to us.

The position is for four years. The salary is commensurate with the regulations of the Swiss National Science Foundation (47 - 50 K CHF p.a. at 60% employment level). Funding for project-related fieldwork and conference visits are available.

Starting date is 1 January 2021. If you are interested, please submit a letter of application as well as names and contact details of two possible referees, your curriculum vitae, copies of relevant diplomas, a writing sample (e.g. your master thesis), and a 1 page text in which you indicate a draft title for your PhD and explain how you could contribute to this SNF research project based on your academic profile and personal research interests in a single pdf file by e-mail to Regina Kohler ([regina.kohler@geo.uzh.ch](mailto:regina.kohler@geo.uzh.ch)). Master theses can be sent in a separate file. Abstract of the SNF-proposal is attached.

Applications should be submitted in English.

Please direct informal inquiries to Sara Landolt ([sara.landolt@geo.uzh.ch](mailto:sara.landolt@geo.uzh.ch)) or Itta Bauer ([itta.bauer@geo.uzh.ch](mailto:itta.bauer@geo.uzh.ch)), +41(0) 44 635 51 47

Closing date: 12 October 2020

Job interviews: 19 October 2020