

## Appointment of Post-Doctoral Researcher

The Leibniz-Institute for Research on Society and Space (IRS) in Erkner (close to Berlin) is a publicly funded non-university research institution and a member of the Leibniz Association. The IRS is looking for a

### **Postdoctoral Researcher (f/m/d, 100%, TV-L E13)**

for its Research Group “Creativity and Space” of the IRS Research Area “Economy and Civil Society”. The position is to be filled as soon as possible and is initially limited to four years.

#### **Working Context:**

The research group ‘Creativity and Work’ is interested in the contribution of creative and (social) innovation processes to socio-economic transformation processes in urban and rural regions. Megatrends such as demographic and climate change contribute to the increasing complexity of global-local interdependencies in digitally mediated contexts. These dynamics are reflected in societal challenges and is changing trans-local economic and social interactions. Against this backdrop, the research group examines civil society and entrepreneurial approaches to dealing with uncertainties, disruptions and diverging visions of the future in creative and innovative processes. In doing so, it explores collaborative, sometimes conflictual negotiations of value attributions in these processes and investigates new forms of trans-local action by actors. In doing so, alternative forms of organisation, such as collectives, cooperatives, or public welfare-oriented companies at the interface of market and non-market logics, are increasingly becoming the focus of the research group's activities. The aim is to develop options for shaping open regional innovation and economic policies. The research contributions are predominantly located in human geography, but are interdisciplinary in nature.

Working in the Research Group offers the opportunity to develop and implement your own qualification track for building a postdoctoral career path towards becoming eligible for a professorship. The IRS provides a research context that supports the development of necessary core competencies, for example through participation in the conceptual and empirical phases of projects in the current research programme. Project involvement is provided through the flagship project ‘Caring – Valuing – Transitioning’. The project examines mission-oriented organisations that develop alternative economic or civil society solutions to shape what they see as a better future. The position also offers the opportunity to sharpen your research profile by applying for, managing and implementing your own third-party funded research projects and to gain experience in project and staff management and research management. To this end, the IRS supports national and international networking within the scientific community and at the same time offers space for knowledge transfer initiatives.

#### **Your tasks:**

- Participation in the entire research process of the above-mentioned flagship project (including preparation, planning, implementation and evaluation of empirical work),
- Developing your own profile for the postdoctoral career phase towards an eligible for appointment to a professorship, e.g. by:
  - Participation in application activities for the acquisition of third-party funding for the research group,
  - Publication of research results in peer-reviewed international journals,
  - Presentation of research results at national and international scientific as well as transfer-oriented events,
- Active involvement in the development of transdisciplinary working formats.

**Your profile:**

- Excellent doctoral degree in human geography (focus on economic, social, urban and regional geography), spatial sciences, organisational sciences or other disciplines with a spatial focus,
- Knowledge of empirical social research methods,
- Knowledge of literature and theory in at least two of the following fields: knowledge, digitalisation, spatial theories, valuation theories, post-growth economies, alternative economies, transition theory,
- Knowledge of new spatial, organisational and social forms of economic activity,
- Experiences in publishing in peer-reviewed journals and presenting research work,
- Independent working style, openness to interdisciplinary collaboration and very good written and spoken English skills.

**Our offer:**

The IRS offers a varied job with a friendly, innovative and interdisciplinary team in a dynamic re-search environment. Working in a scientific team gives you the freedom to design and implement your own postdoctoral project, which is thematically linked to the above mentioned Research Group and complements the beforementioned projects. You will be involved in various forms of scientific exchange organized by the IRS, such as International Lectures or IRS Seminars. The institute also offers a wide range of opportunities for continuing education and is committed to the health care of its employees. Further benefits include:

- Salary and social benefits in accordance with the TV-L (Collective Agreement for Public Service Employees),
- Public service pension scheme (VBL),
- Flexible working hours and the option of mobile working,
- Family-friendly working conditions – the IRS has been certified as a family-friendly employer with the "berufundfamilie" certificate since 2015,
- Full-time positions can also be filled on a part-time basis,
- Employer subsidy for public transportation.

The IRS guarantees the professional equality of all persons according to the Federal Equal Opportunities Act (BGleG) and strives for an open and non-discriminatory work culture. We expressly welcome applications from women. Applicants with severe disabilities will be given preference if they are equally qualified

If you are interested in this position, please send your application documents (cover letter, brief outline of your research profile for a postdoctoral project, CV, certificates (of degrees), references and three of your own publications) quoting **reference number 1425** in a **single PDF file** by email by **16.01. 2026** addressed to [bewerbung@leibniz-irs.de](mailto:bewerbung@leibniz-irs.de).

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The Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space takes the protection of personal data seriously. We collect, use and store your personal data exclusively within the framework of the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Visit the IRS website for more information.