



Job advertisement

The Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space (IRS) in Erkner near Berlin, a non-university research institution and member of the Leibniz Association, offers

one postdoctoral position (f/m/n, 100%, TV-L E13)

for employment at the earliest possible date and for a fixed term of up to four years, depending on your personal requirements. An extension of the position may be possible. The position can also be filled on a part-time basis. The successful applicant will work in the research group, "Urban Sustainability Transformations."

The IRS researches the interactions between social changes and the transformation of spaces. Its research focuses on people as social actors, who reflect on their environment and actively shape it, and on their practices. The IRS analyses how people initiate collective action to develop villages, cities and regions together. In this way, the IRS contributes to the understanding of current problems, their social and economic drivers including their historical roots, as well as corresponding solution strategies.

The "Urban Sustainability Transformations" research group is part of the "Policy and Planning" research area. It brings together research on the sustainable transformation of cities and regions and currently expands its focus on research into socio-ecological transformation conflicts.

The successful applicant is expected to contribute to the cooperation within the research area "Policy and Planning" and the entire institute, and in particular to help shape the scientific and strategic orientation and further development of the research group "Urban Sustainability Transformations". Part of the activity is the cooperation in the lead project of the research area "Policy and Planning", which will focus on urban heat transitions and start in 2026.

Your tasks

- Carrying out own empirical studies (e.g., as part of a qualification project and the IRS lead project research).
- Planning, acquisition, and realisation of research projects.
- Active involvement in the scientific and strategic development of the "Urban Sustainability Transformations" research group.
- Publication of research results in peer-reviewed international journals
- Presentation of research results at national and international conferences.
- Commitment in the areas of knowledge transfer and policy advice.

Your profile

- You have completed a doctorate in the fields of human geography, urban studies, political and/or administrative science, urban and/or spatial planning, sustainability sciences, urban sociology, or a related social science discipline with very good results.

- You have a sound knowledge of social science concepts and research methods, in particular, urban research.
- A special focus of your research should be placed on at least two of the following areas: climate governance (e.g., climate mitigation and climate adaptation policies), sustainability governance (e.g., SDGs), political ecology, transition and/or transformation research, energy transition research, conflict and participation research
- You have developed an innovative and inspiring research agenda that fits the research group's profile and further enriches it.
- You have already gained publication experience in international peer-reviewed journals and have a good feel for timely and relevant topics.
- Ideally, you already have experience with the acquisition and realisation of third-party funded projects.
- You have an excellent command of English and a good command of German or are willing to learn German.
- You have a proactive and creative way of thinking and can communicate complex ideas convincingly.

Our offer

- A stimulating and dynamic research environment and working in a supportive team.
- Supporting qualification and career development measures following the IRS agreement on the promotion of postdoctoral researchers (e.g., habilitation projects).
- Institute-funded research and freedom for creativity and development of your ideas and projects.
- Integration into the scientific community and the opportunity to teach courses at Berlin and Brandenburg universities (e.g., as part of a habilitation project).
- Flexible working hours and the option of mobile working.
- Family-friendly working conditions - The IRS has been recognised as a family-friendly employer ("Work and Family" certificate since 2015).
- Extensive further training opportunities and a job ticket (public transport).

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

Please send your application documents (one PDF file) in German or English via email (bewerbung@leibniz-irs.de) referring to the **reference number 2325** by **June 01 2025** at the latest. Your application documents should include a motivation letter and a research plan relating to the above-mentioned topics (maximum of two pages), a CV in tabular form, and copies of relevant certificates.

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Please address any queries to Dr Wolfgang Haupt wolfgang.haupt@leibniz-irs.de

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