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PhD position in SNF SPIRIT research project

100%

A PhD position is available at the Institute of Geography of the University of Bern in the SNSF-funded project **“Female entrepreneurship during multiple crises: An intersectional perspective on entrepreneurial ecosystems in Switzerland and Colombia”**. The project is carried out by the Unit Economic Geography in collaboration with the Universidad del Norte in Barranquilla in Colombia.

With this project, we seek to examine how women entrepreneurs in Switzerland and in Colombia have been affected by and have been able to recover from crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the most recent economic distortions associated with the war in Ukraine and natural catastrophes such as recent floodings in Colombia. Entrepreneurship is a key dynamic in modern economies and increasingly entrepreneurial ecosystems are understood as essential modes of spatial organizing. Yet, if a large segment of humans (women in this case) is disadvantaged in or even excluded from such ecosystems we risk losing innovative potential. Our transatlantic project will examine two case studies (Zurich in Switzerland and Barranquilla in Colombia) and we will focus on topics such as intersectionality, crisis and resilience, entrepreneurial ecosystems, and public policy in support of entrepreneurship. Two PhD students (one based in Switzerland and one based in Colombia) will be able to do the fieldwork and analysis and engage in transatlantic collaboration together with the research teams.

The project is divided into two case studies, one in each country, and different data collection methods will be used (quantitative and qualitative). The project envisages workshops in each country and a longer research stay of the Swiss-based PhD students in Colombia and the hosting of the Colombian PhD student in Switzerland in the third year.

The project language is English. Field work in Switzerland may require German skills. Language skills in Spanish are not required for the Swiss-based PhD students, but can be an advantage.

The project will start February 1, 2024 and we seek a highly motivated person for this four-year position.

Tasks

- Writing a PhD thesis based on the empirical research and preparation of publications
- Planning and implementation of the empirical research and comparative analysis
- Collaboration with project partners in Switzerland and in Colombia
- Participation in project-related activities such as team meetings, bi-monthly transatlantic online meetings, workshops, lectures, conferences, etc.

Requirements

- An above-average Master's degree in geography, business studies, economics or in a related field in social sciences
- Very good written and spoken English
- Good written and spoken German
- Strong motivation for research
- Willingness and openness to undertake the research stay in Colombia
- A residence in Switzerland or the willingness to move to Switzerland
- Reliability and ability to work in an international team
- Desirable are knowledge and experience with topics such as female entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial ecosystems, intersectionality, quantitative and/or qualitative methods

We offer

- An attractive, collaborative and international work and research environment
- An inspiring research team
- Intensive and supportive doctoral supervision

- The opportunity to develop and implement an innovative research project and to gain insights into a policy-relevant topic
- Ability to develop policy recommendations
- Salary according to SNSF guidelines
- Diverse opportunities to develop transferable skills through continuing education
- High quality of life in Bern, Switzerland

The application should include the following and should be send as a single PDF file to heike.mayer@unibe.ch by August 31, 2023:

- Letter of motivation
- Curriculum vitae with up to 2 references
- BA- and MA transcripts or reports
- Sample of your written work (Master thesis or a chapter of the thesis, seminar paper)
- Short essay (up to 2 pages) about your interest in the topic of female entrepreneurship, intersectionality, entrepreneurial ecosystems and crises

If you have questions about the position, please contact Prof. Heike Mayer: heike.mayer@unibe.ch.

About the research group and the University of Bern

The work of the **Unit Economic Geography** focuses on research in the areas of regional development and sustainability, entrepreneurship and (social) innovation, structural changes in urban as well as rural and mountainous regions, diverse economies and postgrowth. We have a strong policy orientation and work regularly with national and international policymakers. You can find more information about the group [here](#).

The **University of Bern** has more than 19'000 students and offers a full range of fields of studies. For more information about the University as an employer, please visit this [link](#). Bern and the Bernese Oberland boast a high quality of life and offer numerous amenities such as urban swimming, hiking, skiing, etc.

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