

PhD Position in STS at the MCTS, Technical University of Munich

Deadline: January 7, 2019

The Professorship of Science & Technology Policy (Prof. Dr. Ruth Müller), based at the Munich Center for Technology in Society (MCTS), Technical University of Munich, announces an **open position for a doctoral researcher in Science & Technology Studies (STS)** (TV-L E13, 65%, 3 years). The doctoral researcher will work as part of a research project that explores **the social, political and ethical aspects of novel gene editing technologies**. The position should be filled as soon as possible, preferably by March 1st 2019.

About us

The research group “Science & Technology Policy” at MCTS explores the interactions between science, technology, society and policy, with a distinct focus on the social studies of the life sciences. The group is based at the MCTS, an interdisciplinary research center in Science and Technology Studies (STS), and is affiliated with the School of Life Sciences and the School of Management at TUM.

About the research focus on gene editing

New gene editing technologies are currently transforming the genetic sciences. The CRISPR/Cas-9 system allows the genetic modification of organisms with a so far unknown precision and at a low cost. Possible applications include the simplified production of genetically modified plants and animals, novel therapies for genetic diseases, and the prenatal editing of human genes and traits. Such novel technological possibilities rearticulate and revitalize the need to investigate a number of social, ethical and political questions related to genetic technologies and increase the need for public deliberation about the potentials and challenges of genetic engineering. As part of a larger research focus on emerging knowledge cultures in the life sciences, our group explores how new gene editing technologies are taken up in different research fields (e.g., in the agricultural sciences, biomedicine), examines the emerging public discourse on the topic, and facilitates and analyzes deliberation processes between scientists from different fields, policy makers, and different publics.

Your tasks as a doctoral researcher

As a doctoral researcher, you will work as part of a project team. Your tasks will include empirical research and data analysis, preparation of results for publication, presentation of results at (international) academic meetings, contributions to the teaching portfolio of the group and support for organizing project-related academic events. You will develop an innovative research question for your PhD thesis as part of the project and in collaboration with the project leader, Prof. Ruth Müller. You will regularly meet with your supervisor to discuss and support the progress of your thesis. Beyond the project, you will be part of the Science & Technology Policy research group at the MCTS and the lively STS research community at MCTS more generally. You will actively participate in the academic life of the group and the center, which both regularly host international

guest researchers and academic events. As a PhD student at TU Munich, you will be enrolled in the TUM Graduate School, which provides a structured PhD program and offers a rich program of courses in academic and transferable skills.

Who can apply?

Applicants should hold a Master's degree in the social sciences, humanities, or the life sciences. Familiarity with STS concepts and experience with qualitative social science research methods is highly desirable. You should be interested in working across the disciplines and in engaging with other knowledge cultures. You should further be capable of and interested in working both as part of a team and independently. Fluency in English is essential for the academic life at the center. For the work in this specific research project, fluency in German is additionally required. We are looking for inspired and inspiring new talents who want to work in and contribute to an exciting, interdisciplinary STS research environment.

Application documents

Your complete application documents must include your CV, your Master's degree certificate, a letter of motivation (max. 2 pages), 1-2 writing samples (e.g. thesis chapters), and names and contact details of 2 references, including a brief statement explaining your relationship to each of the named references.

Interested?

Please send your **complete application** as a single pdf document to **applications.stp@mcts.tum.de**. We will accept and review all applications received up until and including **Monday, January 7, 2019**.

We are committed to raising the number of women and gender-non-binary individuals in research and teaching, who are especially encouraged to apply. Applicants with disabilities are treated with preference given comparable qualification.

If you have questions about the application procedure, please contact **applications.stp@mcts.tum.de**. If you have content-related questions, please contact **ruth.mueller@tum.de** and **julia.feiler@tum.de**.

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