

PhD Position in STS at the MCTS, TU Munich

Deadline: October 10, 2017

The Professorship of Science & Technology Policy (Prof. Dr. Ruth Müller), based at the Munich Center for Technology in Society (MCTS) and affiliated with the School of Life Sciences, Technical University of Munich, announces an **open position for a doctoral researcher in Science & Technology Studies (STS)** (TV-L E13, 65%, 3 years, fixed term) as part of the project “Plastics – Publics – Politics”. The position is available immediately and should be filled as soon as possible.

About us

The professorship & research group “Science & Technology Policy” at MCTS explores the complex nexus of technoscience and policy, with a specific focus on the relationships between the life sciences, society, and policy. The group is based at the MCTS, a cross-faculty integrative research center in Science and Technology Studies (STS), and is affiliated with the School of Life Sciences.

About the research project

The project “Plastics – Publics – Politics” is part of transdisciplinary research consortium “SubuTrack” (funded by the German BMBF), which explores the toxicological, ecological, social, and political aspects of the growing presence of small plastic particles in human environments and bodies. The project will study how different publics perceive and relate to small plastic particles as a part of human environments and will explore opportunities for social and political action in the face of potentially significant ecological and health effects. The project will employ qualitative social science research methods such as media analysis, interviews with citizen-activists, and focus groups. The project will further foster public dialogue and stakeholder engagement.

Your tasks as a doctoral researcher

As a doctoral researcher, you will work on the project with your supervisor, Prof. Dr. Ruth Müller. You will be part of the Science & Technology Policy research group at the MCTS, a collaboratively oriented research group. You will interact with the “SubuTrack” consortium partners, who come from a range of different academic disciplines and public and private organizations. You will develop an innovative research question for your PhD thesis as part of the project, together with your supervisor. You will regularly meet with your supervisor to discuss and support the progress of your thesis. Beyond the group, you will be part of an inspiring and lively STS research community at the MCTS. You will actively participate in the academic life at the center, present your work at international academic meetings, gain initial experiences in teaching and academic publication, and assist in the organization of academic events and other activities of the group. As a PhD student, 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 and experience with social science research methods is desirable. You should be interested in working across the disciplines and in engaging with other knowledge cultures. You should

be capable of and interested in working both as part of a team and independently. Good communication skills in English are essential for the academic life at the center. Due to the nature of the project, good German language skills are essential, too. 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 **assistants.stp@mcts.tum.de**. We will accept and review all applications received up until and including **Tuesday, October 10, 2017**. However, as the position shall be filled as soon as possible, we will be reviewing application as we receive them and encourage early application.

We are committed to raising the number of women in research and teaching. Female researchers 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 **assistants.stp@mcts.tum.de**. If you have content-related questions, please contact **ruth.mueller@tum.de**.

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