



LUDWIG-
MAXIMILIANS-
UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNCHEN

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
CHAIR FOR HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
WITH A FOCUS ON HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT-RELATIONS



The Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich is one of the largest and most renowned universities in Germany. The Teaching and Research Unit on Human-Environment-Relations at the Department of Geography is, as soon as possible, looking for a

Research Associate (m/f/d) with a Focus on Future Risk Trends, Adaptation and Transformation in Coastal Cities (E14 TV-L, 100%)

What we offer:

The initial appointment will be for 1 year. An extension of an additional 3.5 years (i.e. the full remaining duration of the TRANSCEND project) is envisaged, subject to satisfactory work performance and positive evaluation. Remuneration will be according to the German TV-L scheme, up to the E14 level and on a step commensurate with work experience. While this is a full-time position in principle, part time solutions are negotiable. Further career development will be supported. The position allows for pursuing a habilitation. The office is located in the centre of Munich, with excellent public transport links. Applications from suitably qualified women candidates are particularly encouraged. Severely disabled applicants are given preferential consideration in the event of equal qualification.

About us:

The research group around the chair for human geography (Human-Environment Relations) at the Department of Geography works on risk, adaptation and transformation in the context of environmental hazards, climate change, urbanization and other dimensions of global change. The section develops, tests and imparts inter- and transdisciplinary methods for the assessment of future development paths and risk trends as well as for the multi-criteria evaluation of potential strategies for fostering sustainability and transformation, particularly in cities and newly urbanizing areas. While pursuing a global perspective, the section's empirical research is particularly focused on Asia, Africa and Europe. Next to fundamental research, the section is keen to deliver scientific knowledge that is of high practical and policy relevance and provides decision support. The section therefore collaborates closely with decision makers and stakeholders from the local to the global level, e.g. urban administrations, United Nations programs and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The TRANSCEND project (Transformation Decisions for the Adaptation and Sustainability of Cities in the Face of Environmental and Socio-economic Change) is a five-year transdisciplinary research undertaking. Focusing on high-risk coastal cities, it is composed of three interlocking work streams: (1) An integrated model will be developed which combines the assessment of future hazard trends with scenarios of future urban development trajectories and resulting exposure and vulnerability dynamics at the city to sub-city scale. (2) In close cooperation with practical partners, the range of adaptation options will be identified and evaluated, against a novel multi-criteria framework developed within the project. (3) Decision-support tools for the analysis and guidance of risk governance, balancing the interests in multi-stakeholder urban contexts, will be developed. While Mumbai and Jakarta, two of the most rapidly growing and hazard exposed cities globally, will form the two pilot cities for the method development and analysis, the project aims to develop transferable tools whose application to other high-risk cities will be facilitated through multiplier activities in Asia and beyond.

Responsibilities and tasks:

- Support the chair in leading and synchronizing the different research streams within TRANSCEND;
- Under the supervision of the chair, take a leading role in managing TRANSCEND;
- Develop and implement own research activities within either of the TRANSCEND streams;
- Conduct field work in Mumbai and Jakarta;
- Supervise household surveys in Mumbai and Jakarta;

- Organize and implement workshops in Mumbai, Jakarta and Munich;
- Support the chair and local project partners in the local administration of the project in Mumbai and Jakarta;
- Supervise the integration of the different data and modelling streams within TRANSCEND;
- Ideally lead the activities on the urban growth, exposure and vulnerability modelling within TRANSCEND;
- Contribute to scientific publications and communication materials of TRANSCEND;
- Help mentoring the three PhD students and two international fellows of TRANSCEND;
- Participate in national and international conferences as well as project events in Germany and globally;
- Support the chair in other tasks related to the department in order to free up time for TRANSCEND.

Qualifications and experiences:

Required:

- PhD/doctorate in geography or a related discipline such as spatial planning, sociology, economics or political sciences;
- Strong research expertise and experience in the fields of climate change adaptation, vulnerability and/or environmental risk;
- Strong track-record in terms of scientific publications;
- Strong skills in qualitative as well as quantitative social science research methods;
- Skills in statistical analysis and modelling;
- Knowledge and experience in managing research projects;
- Fieldwork experience, ideally in Asia;
- Excellent English language skills.

Desirable additional assets:

- Expertise in scenario analysis and/or modelling of future development and risk trends;
- Knowledge in urban growth modelling;
- Skills in agent-based or Bayesian modelling;
- Track-record in urban studies;
- Teaching experience;
- Professional German language skills;
- Indonesian language skills;
- Skills in Hindi and/or Marathi.

Interested applicants should submit their applications by e-mail to susan.elsaesser@geographie.uni-muenchen.de by Wednesday, 05 February 2020. Applications shall be compiled into one PDF document and include a short cover letter (max. one page), CV, list of publications, contact details of two potential references and a writing sample (i.e. most important scientific paper or part of a thesis). The interviews with short-listed candidates are scheduled for the week of 10-14 February 2020. Question might be addressed to Ms. Susan Elsässer or Prof. Dr. Matthias Garschagen, via the above-indicated e-mail address.