



Job Vacancy

The Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI) at the University of Freiburg (Germany) is seeking to fill one position as

Doctoral Researcher (Salary Level 65% TVL E 13)

Decoloniality and postcolonial epistemic hierarchies in peace & conflict

The position is part of the research network "Postcolonial Hierarchies in Peace and Conflict", a collaborative project of the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (Freiburg), the Center for Conflict Studies at the Philipps University Marburg, the University of Bayreuth, and the University of Erfurt. It is an interdisciplinary research initiative funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

The successful candidate is expected to move to Freiburg, Germany, and start by April 1, 2023. The contract will be for 3 years. The selected candidate will enroll as PhD student with the University of Freiburg's Faculty of Humanities, under the supervision of Prof. Dr Manuela Boatcă, and be provided with office space at the ABI.

Your profile:

- Completed MA degree with excellent grades in sociology, political science, international relations, anthropology, global studies, or related subjects.
- BA or MA degree in sociology. Otherwise, the candidate will be required to take courses on sociological theory and methods as part of their PhD in order to fulfill the requirements of the department (Promotionsordnung).
- Thematic interest in the field of peace and conflict studies and epistemologies and knowledge production, with an emphasis on post/decolonial approaches.
- Strong analytical research skills and a strong background in qualitative research methods.
- Excellent organizational and communication skills.
- Fluency in English. German language skills are not required, but learning German is strongly encouraged.
- Experience in the design and curation of online platforms and/or the production of multimedia materials are highly valued.



The project:

The postcolonial hierarchies network (<http://www.postcolonial-hierarchies.net/>) investigates how historically formed postcolonial hierarchies manifest themselves in contemporary conflict dynamics and what implications this has for sustainable conflict transformation in the future. To do so, the network brings together historical perspectives on the contexts of conflict formation (in particular those shaped by colonialism) with postcolonial research perspectives as well as with methodologies and theories of peace and conflict research.

The PhD position will support the coordination and development of the virtual encyclopedia, which is an integral part of the network. The encyclopedia will be an open-access platform offering an engaging and critical compendium of crucial theoretical and conceptual debates, rigorous empirical analyses, and thorough reflection on methods and knowledge production in the field of peace and conflict studies from de- and postcolonial approaches. It will combine text, audio, video, and storytelling across different formats. The tasks for the selected candidate include contact and regular communication with the encyclopedia's contributors and participation in the conceptualization, development, and edition of text-based, audio, and graphic materials.

The candidate is expected to pursue a research project based on postcolonial/decolonial approaches in the frame of peace and conflict studies. Possible themes to be explored include, but are not limited to:

- Postcolonial hierarchies, knowledge production in peace and conflict studies, and epistemic violence.
- Decolonial methodologies in peace and conflict research and education.
- Decolonial perspectives on Global North institutions – from NATO to the EU.
- Modernity/coloniality in peacebuilding theory and practice.
- Race and coloniality in peace and conflict studies.
- Pluriversality and epistemic justice in digital knowledge production and circulation.

We offer:

- Salary level 65% TVL E 13 (approximately €1,800 per month after taxes, health insurance contributions and social security contributions).
- No teaching or administrative obligations.
- Participation in a dynamic research network with members ranging from professors to doctoral researchers from four institutions across Germany.
- Vibrant research institute focusing on questions of power transformations, state institutions, and societal conflicts in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.



The ABI follows principles of equality and diversity in its hiring practices. Applications from the Global South and BIPOC scholars are particularly welcome.

Applications should be sent to Viviana.garcia.pinzon@abi.uni-freiburg.de by **January 27, 2023** (as one single PDF file), and should include the following:

- Motivation letter (1-2 pages)
- CV, including names and contact details of two referees
- Copies of university degrees (BA and MA)
- Work sample (MA thesis chapter, published article, or similar)
- PhD project outline (2-3 pages)

For more information, please contact Dr. Viviana García Pinzón, via telephone (+49-(0)761-88878-45) or e-mail (Viviana.garcia.pinzon@abi.uni-freiburg.de).