



Vacancy

1 PhD Position in Social Anthropology

Research Project

The Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies (ISEK) of the University of Zurich is offering a PhD position within a 3-year research project on „**Spice Chains: Vietnamese Star Anise, Global Markets and the Making of an Indigenous Commodity**“ funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation and led by Prof. Dr. Annuska Derks. The project is part of a research cooperation between the Dept. of Social Anthropology at the University of Zurich and the Department of Geography at McGill University, which seeks to unravel spice chains in Vietnam and beyond. The PhD project will focus on star anise, a star-shaped spice that is native to Vietnam and China. Grown mainly in northeastern provinces by members of ethnic minority communities, Vietnamese star anise is a highly valued ingredient in the production of local food, trendy beverages and traditional as well as biochemical medicine. Through multi-sited research, the project seeks to explore the intersections of the lived practices of spice production with the expanding local and global markets for spices.

Your duties and responsibilities

As a PhD researcher you will be working on the above-mentioned research project, the objective of which is the doctorate in Social Anthropology. You are expected to conduct at least one year of ethnographic fieldwork in Vietnam, with shorter stints of research at destination markets of the Vietnamese star anise (China, Switzerland). The rest of the time you will be based in Zurich at ISEK, where you will be able to benefit from regular project meetings, participate in the Social Anthropology Colloquium Series and write your PhD dissertation. You will have the opportunity to present your work at international workshops and conferences and participate in the organization of an international workshop to be held at the University of Zurich.

Your profile

We are looking for a PhD candidate who:

- has graduated with excellent results on a research-based MA thesis in Social Anthropology or a related discipline
- has fieldwork experience, ideally in Southeast Asia
- has excellent written and spoken English language skills; Vietnamese language skills are a major advantage
- is able and willing to work individually as well as in a team
- takes initiatives and likes to organize and engage in (international) academic exchange
- has a keen interest in exploring the world of spice

Our offer

The full-time appointment will be for a period of 3 years, starting on the 1st of February 2016 or by mutual agreement. The salary is based on the rates of the Swiss National Science Foundation (http://www.snf.ch/SiteCollectionDocuments/allg_doktorierende_e.pdf).



You will become part of a dynamic, innovative and stimulating research and teaching environment, with excellent opportunities for further qualifications, and a motivated faculty interested in academic exchange. As a PhD student at a Swiss university, you will also have the opportunity to join the „Swiss Graduate Program in Anthropology“ (<http://anthropology.cuso.ch>).

Your application

We are looking forward to your application. Please enclose the following documents:

- Motivation letter, stating clearly why you are interested in this project
- Curriculum Vitae
- Abstract of MA thesis
- Sample chapter of MA thesis (or an alternative piece of academic writing)
- Copies of your academic degrees
- Names and contact details of two referees

Please send your electronic application before December 05, 2015 to: christinejanine.wittlin@uzh.ch

Contact:

Kindly note that our homepage is currently under construction and not yet available in English.

In case of further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us!

For inquiries regarding the project, please contact Prof. Dr. Annuska Derks (annuska.derks@uzh.ch)