

Leuphana University Lüneburg (foundation under public law), Faculty of Sustainability, is offering a post as:

**Postdoctoral Research Associate (m/f) – Wissenschaftliche/r Mitarbeiter/in,
salary group EG 13 TV-L, 50%**

– Transdisciplinary Case Studies –

Starting in September 2016, up to 31st March 2019. The position is part of the transdisciplinary project funded by the State of Lower Saxony and Volkswagen Foundation entitled:

**Leverage Points for Sustainability Transformation:
Institutions, People and Knowledge**

About the project

Understanding how changes in interconnected social-ecological systems facilitate the transformation to sustainability represents one of the key challenges of sustainability science. Drawing on insights from systems thinking and solution-oriented transdisciplinary research, this project focuses on hitherto under-recognized leverage points – system properties where a small shift can lead to fundamental changes in the system as a whole. *Leverage Points* investigates changes in relatively intractable, but potentially highly influential, system properties that could help to realign complex social-ecological systems to the normative goals of sustainability. Specifically, we will analyse three sustainability-relevant realms of leverage: 1) institutional dynamics (RESTRUCTURE); 2) human-environment interactions (RECONNECT); and 3) sustainability-related knowledge creation and use (RETHINK). The three realms of leverage will be studied individually and with regard to their interdependencies, on two key themes (food and energy) in two contrasting case study regions (Transylvania in Romania, and Lower Saxony in Germany). For details, see www.leveragepoints.org.

About the job – PD3a: Transdisciplinary Case Studies

This position contributes to the consolidation of the epistemological and methodological foundations of transdisciplinary case studies based on the implementation of transdisciplinary case studies in Lower Saxony, Germany and Transylvania, Romania. The themes of the case studies will revolve around the food and energy systems in Lower Saxony (DE). This position focuses on the case study in Lower Saxony.

The position is one of five postdoctoral associate positions within the *Leverage Points* project. You will be expected to work closely with the research consortium, including four other postdoctoral associates (RESTRUCTURE, RECONNECT and RETHINK and transdisciplinary case study (Romania)), eight Principal Investigators, and eight PhD students.

Tasks and responsibilities may include: 1) co-design and co-lead of the case study in Lower Saxony; 2) elaborate cultural sensitive case study design; 3) contribute to theoretical foundations of transdisciplinary case studies; 4) guide formative evaluation; 6) support of supervision of PhD students.

Person specification

Essential selection criteria: a) PhD or equivalent doctoral degree in Sustainability Science; b) previous practical experience with transdisciplinary case studies; c) strong theoretical background in transdisciplinarity; d) highly developed conceptual skills; e) excellent communication skills (English and German); f) ability and willingness to work in a large, multi-disciplinary research project; g) experience in methods for knowledge integration; h) strong project management skills.

Additional desirable selection criteria: a) expertise in qualitative empirical social science research; b) theoretical foundations in cultural science; c) previous experience in food/agriculture and/or energy systems.

Leuphana University Lüneburg is an equal opportunity employer committed to fostering heterogeneity among its employees. Applications by qualified individuals of all backgrounds are strongly encouraged. Disabled applicants with equal qualifications will be given priority consideration.

To apply

Please address all selection criteria under clearly labelled headings in up to one short paragraph for each. Please also send a motivation letter stating why you are interested in the position, a CV (including publications) and copies of relevant certificates and transcripts.

Application deadline: 3rd August 2016

Please submit all materials in PDF format (as a single merged file) with the subject **“Leverage Points PD3a”** to:

Leuphana University Lüneburg
Personalservice – Corinna Schmidt
Subject: **Leverage Points PD3a**
Scharnhorststr. 1
21335 Lüneburg
Germany
bewerbung@leuphana.de

Files should be named with the applicant's surname (e.g. SmithLeveragePointsPD3a.pdf).

For any questions about the project and the job, please contact Prof. Dr. Ulli Vilsmaier (vilsmaier@leuphana.de).

For more information on the Leverage Points project, please visit www.Leveragepoints.org.