



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%**

– Sustainability-related knowledge creation and use –

Starting approximately September 2016, up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. The position is part of a 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 points: 1) institutional dynamics (RESTRUCTURE); 2) human-environment interactions (RECONNECT); and 3) sustainability-related knowledge creation and use (RETHINK). The three realms 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](http://www.leveragepoints.org)

**About the job – PD3b: RETHINK: Sustainability-related knowledge creation and use**

This position focuses on consolidating conceptual foundations related to the role of knowledge including (new) forms of knowledge production and use to foster sustainability transformation.

This 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 transdisciplinary case studies in Germany and Romania, eight Principal Investigators, and eight PhD students.

Tasks and responsibilities include contributions to: 1) the systematic review of knowledge production in the context of sustainability transformations; 2) characterization of knowledge production and use in the case study regions; 3) analysis of the potential for transferring knowledge among different actors and across different contexts (e.g. regions and themes) and 4) analysis of sustainability conceptualizations in different contexts; and 5) co-supervision of PhD students.

## Person specification

Essential selection criteria: a) PhD, equivalent doctoral degree or proven research expertise at a post-graduate-level; b) strong publication record relative to opportunity; c) highly developed conceptual skills; d) ability and willingness to work in a large, multi-disciplinary research project; e) expertise (theoretical or practical) in trans-disciplinary research or research on knowledge in societal systems (e.g. from a sociology science perspective)

Additional desirable selection criteria: a) expertise in qualitative empirical social science research; b) previous experience in food/agriculture and/or energy systems; c) a background in theory of science; d) experience with transformational sustainability research;.

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), copies of relevant certificates and transcripts, and the names of up to three academic referees.

## Application deadline: 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2016

Please submit all materials in PDF format (as a single merged file) with the subject “**Leverage Points PD3b**” to:

Leuphana University Lüneburg  
Personalservice – Corinna Schmidt  
Subject: **Leverage Points PD3b**  
Scharnhorststr. 1  
21335 Lüneburg  
Germany  
[bewerbung@leuphana.de](mailto:bewerbung@leuphana.de)

Files should be named with the applicant's surname (e.g. SmithLeveragePointsPD3b.pdf).

For any questions about the project and the job, please contact Prof. Dr. Daniel Lang ([daniel.lang@leuphana.de](mailto:daniel.lang@leuphana.de)).

For more information on the Leverage Points project, please visit [www.Leveragepoints.org](http://www.Leveragepoints.org).