

The University of Vienna (20 faculties and centres, 178 fields of study, approx. 9.800 members of staff, about 90.000 students) seeks to fill the position from 01.03.2021 of a

## **Project Staff** **at the Department of Development Studies** to 28.02.2023.

**Reference number: 11431**

At the Department of Development Studies, a subunit of the Faculty of Social Sciences, we focus on the transdisciplinary analysis of global inequalities as well as on questions of methodology and methods referring to the subject of 'development'.

The successful candidate will mainly work in the two-year research project "The role of commodity prices for socio-ecological transformation. Mineral extraction, trading houses and derivatives markets - The cases of cobalt, copper, lithium and nickel in Sub-Saharan Africa", financed by the Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank (Austrian National Bank). The project aims at researching the role of price setting mechanisms in determining sustainable development outcomes in the global value chains of selected minerals central to current socio-ecological transformation strategies in the area of mobility and energy provision. Research on sustainability implications of resource extraction has focused on the physical sphere without giving due consideration to price setting mechanisms and related financial market dynamics, which this project will focus on. Price setting dynamics and their sustainability implications will be analyzed throughout the mineral global value chains of cobalt, copper, lithium and nickel, from extraction in key Sub-Saharan African producer countries via leading commodity trading houses to EU-based manufacturers of wind turbines, solar panels and batteries. A particular focus lies on critiquing the role of financial derivatives markets where 'global prices' are set and financialisation processes on these markets. The methodology is built on a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, including trade, industry and financial data analysis, document analysis, and semi-structured interviews with firm and institutional actors. The research team involves researchers at the Department of Development Studies (Dr. Cornelia Staritz, project manager) and at ÖFSE (Austrian Foundation for Development Research, Dr. Bernhard Tröster).

**Duration of employment:** 2 year/s

**Extent of Employment:** 20 hours/week

[Job grading in accordance with collective bargaining agreement:](#) \$48 VwGr. B1 Grundstufe (praedoc) with relevant work experience determining the assignment to a particular salary grade.

### **Job Description:**

The successful candidate will conduct secondary research (literature review) as well as qualitative research (document analysis, semi-structured interviews) and quantitative research (processing and analysis of trade, industry and financial data) as part of the project, and in cooperation with the two other researchers. The research also includes field trips to countries in Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa. The successful candidate will co-author publications on the results of the project in peer-reviewed journals and present at national and international conferences and workshops. This position also includes the writing of a dissertation on a topic related to the research project under the supervision of Dr. Cornelia Staritz, as well as occasional support of department activities.

### **Profile:**

- Master's degree in development studies, economics, political economy, political science, geography, sociology or a related field;
- strong interest in issues of international development, uneven development and development economics;
- strong interest in and some knowledge of the three fields financial markets and financialization, global value chains, and mineral sectors;
- some knowledge of and experience in data processing and analysis in Excel, R, Eviews, or other statistical programs;
- some knowledge of and experience in qualitative methods (in particular semi-structured interviews);
- excellent English language skills in reading, writing and speaking;
- strong ability to work in teams and excellent organizational skills.

### Additional qualifications:

- Detailed knowledge of at least one of the three fields financial markets and financialization, global value chains, and mineral sectors is highly appreciated.
- Interest in and understanding of feminist perspectives on development are appreciated.

Your **application** (in English) must include the following bundled into **ONE pdf** file:

- Letter of motivation (description of your interests and activities and/or research on the topics of the project)
- Scientific CV
- List of publications (if applicable)
- Writing sample of a scientific text in English
- Degree certificate(s)
- Certificate(s) of previous employment(s) (if applicable)

Additional information on the [Department of Development Studies](#); [Cornelia Staritz](#); [ÖFSE](#); [Bernhard Tröster](#).

### Research fields:

Main research field	Special research fields	Importance
Economics	Development economics	SHOULD

Applications including a letter of motivation (German or English) should be submitted via the Job Center to the University of Vienna (<http://jobcenter.univie.ac.at>) no later than 15.01.2021, mentioning reference number 11431.

For further information please contact Staritz, Cornelia +43-1-4277-64110.

The University pursues a non-discriminatory employment policy and values equal opportunities, as well as diversity (<http://diversity.univie.ac.at/>). The University lays special emphasis on increasing the number of women in senior and in academic positions. Given equal qualifications, preference will be given to female applicants.

Human Resources and Gender Equality of the University of Vienna

**Reference number: 11431**

E-Mail: [jobcenter@univie.ac.at](mailto:jobcenter@univie.ac.at)

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