

The Cultural Geography Group led by Prof. Dr. Julia Verne at the Department of Geography at the University of Mainz and the Social Geography Group led by Prof. Nadine Marquardt at the Department of Geography at the University of Bonn and are looking for

two Ph.D. candidates, 75 % (f/m/d)

as soon as possible, on a fixed-term contract for 36 months.

The two positions are part of the DFG-project **Shelter technologies in action: Humanitarian geographies of precarious housing across North-South divides**. The project explores humanitarian spaces created through the provision of emergency shelter. Using follow-the-thing approaches, the project traces shelter kits from the spaces where they are designed and produced, to logistical centers, and from there to different sites of deployment. By linking these sites, it becomes possible to (1.) reveal the biopolitical rationalities that underlie the design of shelter kits, (2.) retrace how humanitarian aid is shaped by the demands of global logistics, and (3.) examine how everyday life in the emergency shelters – often lasting months and years – actually takes shape. By focusing on shelter kit sites in Northern Europe and the Global South, the project overcomes conceptual North-South divides in the analysis of humanitarian aid and contributes to the development of relational perspectives. The project is comparative in nature and will build on extensive ethnographic field studies in the Global South (Ph.D. candidate 1, Mainz) and Northern Europe (Ph.D. candidate 2, Bonn).

The tasks of the two Ph.D. candidates include the implementation of the case studies in the context of individual and joint research stays and the (joint) writing up and publication of the findings. The empirical work will be carried out with the help of various methods of ethnographic and qualitative social research (participant observation, expert interviews, narrative interviews, document analysis etc.). Within the framework of the project, there is the possibility of independent scientific work in pursuit of a Ph.D.

Your profile:

- very good Master's degree or equivalent in Human Geography or other disciplines (e.g. Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science)
- experience in ethnographic and qualitative social research
- interest to write a Ph.D. within the framework of project
- knowledge of current debates in Social and Cultural Geography, Science and Technology Studies (STS) and Postcolonial Theories is very welcome
- regional experience in the Global South and research experience in foreign language contexts are an advantage, especially for the PhD position in Mainz
- ability to work independently as well as work in a team

The Universities of Bonn and Mainz are committed to diversity and equal opportunity. The Universities of Bonn and Mainz seek to increase female representation in staffing areas where women are underrepresented and provide special career support. The Universities of Bonn and Mainz therefore particularly encourage qualified women to apply. Applications from qualified candidates with a certified severe disability or from those of equal status are especially welcome.

If you are interested in this position, please send your complete application as a single PDF-file by email to Prof. Dr. Julia Verne (julia.verne@uni-mainz.de) and Prof. Dr. Nadine Marquardt (marquardt@uni-bonn.de) before August 20th 2023. Complete applications should include a motivation letter, a CV, diplomas and certificates, as well as a sample of your written work (ca. 10 pages).

For further information on the two research groups see: [Cultural Geography working group Mainz](#) and [Social Geography working group Bonn](#).