

VACANCY: Pre-doc researcher (65%, TVL E13) in the Collaborative Research Centre 1567 Virtuelle Lebenswelten (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

1. Research focus

The SFB 1567 Virtual Lifeworlds, newly funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) as of July 1, 2022, is an interdisciplinary research network consisting of 13 scientific subprojects and more than 50 scientists from education, history, art history, linguistics, literary studies, media studies and social sciences. The focus lies on researching virtuality as a driving force for social and cultural transformation processes with a wealth of lifeworld references and their normalizations.

We are looking for a doctoral researcher for the subproject A02 "Virtual Information Infrastructures: The Data Center as Infrastructure" (TP leadership Prof. Dr. Estrid Sørensen) to conduct ethnographic research of scientific data practices and their ecological relevance. Data are central to knowledge production, but at the same time their storage and processing demand energy and raw materials. What role do energy use and the consumption of raw materials play in decisions about data processing methods and about how long data are stored? What trade-offs and negotiations unfold when scientific data infrastructures are established, and what are their consequences for scientific knowledge production, for collaboration in science, and for their ecological impact? What scientific, social, and ecological values and conventions play a role in these negotiations? Researching these questions, the project will contribute to understanding data infrastructures - whose immateriality is often suggested by terms such as "virtual," or "cloud" – as social, material, and ecological. In researching data infrastructures, the project will focus primarily on data centres, since these are, on the one hand, centrally important for science and, on the other hand, also have an increasing ecological impact.

2. Areas of work

- Collaboration to answer the overarching research question of subproject A02 on virtual information infrastructures
- Participation in an inspiring scientific collaboration culture
- Praxeographic research of scientific data practices as well as autoethnography of your own data practices
- Conducting a small quantitative survey of universities with their own data centres in Germany, building on ethnographic research
- Collaboration in ethnographic research of a university data centre
- Independent research and further scientific qualification (the possibility of a doctorate exists)
- Participation in the research and event program of the subproject as well as the entire SFB
- Collaboration on the core topics of the Collaborative Research Centre and participation in internationally oriented event and publication organization together with the other subprojects as well as in the context of the Virtual University and the Early Career Forum of the SFB

3. Your profile

- Above-average university degree (Master) in the field of Science & Technology Studies, social or cultural anthropology, sociology, or a related social or cultural discipline
- Ability to work in a team and desire to participate in a team-ethnography and to actively contribute to a good culture of scientific collaboration
- Experience with ethnographic or praxeographic research, preferably in the field of data research
- Research interests in at least one of the following fields are desirable: Science & Technology Studies, empirical science studies, critical data studies, software studies, CSCW
- Interest in interdisciplinary and international cooperation
- Good proficiency of German and English, or ability to learn German language within short time.

4. We offer:

- Challenging and varied tasks with a high degree of personal responsibility
- Team-oriented cooperation in a professionally excellent, committed, international and appreciative team
- Diverse support offers as well as individual design options such as in the Early Career Forum, the independent organizational unit of the SFB for scientists in early career phases
- fair working hours and family-friendly work
- Support in reconciling family and work/science (e.g. arranging childcare, holiday offers, mobile children's room)

5. Contact person for further information:

For administrative questions: Dr. Ina Bolinski (scientific coordinator), Tel.: +49 234 32 20600

For content-related questions: Prof. Dr. Estrid Sørensen, estrid.sorensen@rub.de. The position will soon be officially announced here (only in German): <https://uni.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/en/vacancies>