Doctoral position (47 months) in North American Literature

University of Bern, Department of English

Within the SNSF-funded interdisciplinary “Sinergia” research project ‘Mediating the Ecological Imperative: Formats and Modes of Engagement’, we are offering a doctoral position for 47 months, starting 1 February 2021. North American Literature should be your field of study with a specialization in an area related to the subproject “Ecological Imaginaries: Eco-Ekphrasis in Twentieth- and Twenty-first Century North American Fiction” (Prof. Dr. Gabriele Rippl). The participation in the activities of the project and residency in Bern are expected.

https://ecological-imperative.ch/about/

https://www.unibe.ch/aktuell/medien/media_relations/medienmitteilungen/2020/medienmitteilungen_2020/projekt_untersucht_die_rolle_der_kultur_in_der_umweltkris/ index_ger.html

The successful candidate should have an outstanding MA degree in North American Literature and Culture and a strong interest in developing a dissertation project related to “eco-ekphrasis” and word-image configurations in twentieth- and twenty-first century North American literature in an interdisciplinary project (which includes three other disciplines: Modern and Contemporary Art History, Image Studies, and Social Anthropology). A strong engagement in a wide range of collaborative activities under the umbrella project is expected.

Ideally, the doctoral student will already have worked in the field of North American Literature and environmental aesthetics. In addition to the training as literary
scholar, s/he would ideally have a background (or at least a strong interest) in art history or visual culture. The doctoral student will write the dissertation at the University of Bern and will be supervised by Prof. Dr. Gabriele Rippl (first supervisor) together with another PI of the project who would serve as second supervisor.

A requirement for a successful application is excellent English and good German. The deadline for applications is 1 September 2020.

The interviews will take place in Bern on 18 September 2020, 2–6pm.

Please send your application containing a detailed CV, information on publications (if applicable), copies of obtained degrees, a short description of your research project, a writing sample (a chapter of the MA thesis or a term paper), and the contact details of two professional referees to the following email address and postal address: gabriele.rippl@ens.unibe.ch

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