

In the context of the **Research Unit “Epistemology of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC)”**, we invite applications for the following positions

1 Postdoctoral Researcher in Science and Technology Studies (40 hours/week)
1 Doctoral Researcher in Science and Technology Studies (30 hours/week)

at the Department of Science Communication and Higher Education Research, University of Klagenfurt (Klagenfurt, Austria). The University of Klagenfurt is a young, lively, innovative university located in the Austrian province of Carinthia, a meeting point of three cultures. The University is Carinthia’s largest academic institution and a hub for research and knowledge transfer in the Alps-Adriatic region.

Positions are funded for **3 years** (fixed-term contracts) by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF). Prospective starting date: **October 1, 2020**.

Deadline for applications: May 22, 2020

The Research Unit, which was established in 2016 and recently re-approved for another three-year period by the DFG (German Research Foundation) and the FWF, investigates the LHC at the European laboratory for particle physics CERN from an interdisciplinary perspective. It addresses key issues in philosophy and history of science as well as Science and Technology Studies (STS) in six individual projects (www.lhc-epistemologie.uni-wuppertal.de).

For project B3

**Producing Novelty and Securing Credibility:
LHC Experiments from the Perspective of Social Studies of Science**

we are looking for candidates with sound knowledge of STS and a pronounced interest in physics. The project is directed by Martina Merz, professor of Social Studies of Science at the University of Klagenfurt, and Peter Mättig, LHC physicist and professor at the University of Bonn.

Expected Contributions and Responsibilities

Job holders will investigate the epistemic practices and culture of LHC experiments from the perspective of Science and Technology Studies. Particular emphasis will be placed on the role of creativity, instrumentation, and trust in the production of novel results; and on the question of how researchers secure credibility for their results within a highly complex and differentiated organizational environment. These issues will be addressed by way of qualitative social research methods, including interviews with physicists and fieldwork at CERN. We expect job holders to produce high-quality publications, cooperate closely with the interdisciplinary project team, and engage in discussions with physicists. The candidates’ responsibilities also include the cooperation with international partners, especially the Research Unit’s other project teams, and assistance in organizing project-based events, as well as in reporting activities. In terms of the doctoral position, the job holder is expected to complete the PhD thesis within the funding period.

Requirements for the Postdoctoral Position

- PhD with above-average results in the social sciences, humanities or physics
- Pertinent academic publications
- Sound knowledge of STS (concepts, approaches, themes)
- Very good command of English

Requirements for the Doctoral Position

- Master's degree with above-average results in the social sciences, humanities or physics
- Knowledge of STS (concepts, approaches, themes)
- Very good command of English

Additional Desired Qualifications

- Experience and skills in qualitative research methodology
- Very good writing and communication skills
- Skills in team-based research and collaborative work

We are committed to diversity and equal opportunity, and would like to encourage applications from scholars who would diversify the Research Unit, and the academic community more generally. People with disabilities or chronic diseases, who meet the requirements, are particularly encouraged to apply.

Application documents should include: letter of motivation (1-2 pages), CV, list of publications (if available), certificates of study degrees, 1-2 writing samples (e.g. master thesis, doctoral thesis, journal article), names and contact details of 2 referees.

Please submit your complete application as a single pdf document with the mention "**B3-Postdoc**", respectively "**B3-PhD**" to Martina Merz: martina.merz@aau.at

Deadline for applications: **May 22, 2020**

Job interviews will take place by video in June 2020.

Informal enquiries can be addressed to
Prof. Dr. Martina Merz: martina.merz@aau.at

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