

**4 positions as Doctoral Researcher (m/f/d)**

**ERC Advanced Grant "Rewilding the Anthropocene. Human-Animal Assemblages in the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area"**

**Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Cologne**

**Reference number: Wiss2109-01**

**Job announcement: 01.09.2021; application deadline: 31.10.2021**

**Full information: <http://ethnologie.uni-koeln.de/jobs>**

The Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Cologne invites applications for

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starting no later than January 1st , 2022 with a weekly working time of 29.87 hours (75% position). The salary is based on the German TVL-13 scale if terms and conditions under collective bargaining law are fulfilled. The positions will first be limited to 3 years, with an option of extending for an additional year.

The researchers will work in the ERC Grant Project **Rewilding the Anthropocene. Human-Animal Assemblages in the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area**. REWILDING is an environmental anthropological project contributing to the budding field of environmental humanities generally and to debates on the shifting entanglements between people, flora, and fauna in the world's largest conservation landscape, the southern African Kavango-Zambezi Transboundary Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA). REWILDING is a unique attempt to grasp changing socio-ecological relations among humans and other species in one of the world's largest and most comprehensive conservation experiments. REWILDING consists of six field studies, each of which will have a comparative component and an in-depth focus on particular multi-species assemblages. The comparative approach examines how human livelihoods, institutions, social imaginaries, and attitudes change under – and give rise to – new socio-ecological conditions. The second part focuses on six multi-species assemblages (e.g. elephant, carnivores, tsetse fly, rosewood etc). Each assemblage is comprised of a loose multi-scalar network consisting of different species populations, environmental infrastructures and technologies, and human actors and organizations. The project is tied into networks of interdisciplinary research on the effects of recent population rebounds among mega-herbivores, vectors of epidemic diseases tied to such refaunation, and the socio-economic ramifications of rapidly commodifying diverse flora and fauna.

One researcher will be selected for each assemblage or a group of assemblages. Successful applicants will need to conduct ethnographic fieldwork for about 12-15 months in south-central Africa (either Namibia, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe or Angola).

The project team will be based at the University of Cologne, hold regular project meetings and organize annual research workshops.

**Context**

The Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology at the University of Cologne comprises a thriving faculty with research expertise in Africa, Asia and Polynesia, among others. The project also partners with the University's Global South Study Centre, which brings together further research strengths and opportunities. Doctoral candidates will be supervised by Prof. Michael Bollig and a regional supervisor to be agreed on; they can propose a regional supervisor from among University of Cologne faculty, or from any other institution of higher education.