

The Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO) conducts comparative research into the historical and cultural development processes in the region between the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea and the Adriatic from late antiquity to the present day. The GWZO, which has been based in Leipzig city centre since 2010 and in Prague city centre from 2025, employs around 80 staff from Germany and abroad.

At the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO) the project "Melting Mountains: Environment, Society and the Vertical Climate Frontier in the Greater Altai (1950-2020)" will be realised in cooperation with the Leibniz Association until 31.08.2029.

The research project explores the climatic history of the Greater Altai Highlands in the Anthropocene (1950-2020) through the notion of the vertical climate frontier, focusing on how climate change threatens the traditional livelihoods of local people, making them more dependent on states and lowland societies. It is the first comprehensive study of environment-society relations in the Greater Altai region from a humanities and social science perspective, examining how different stakeholders have perceived and adapted to rapid climate change in this region, which is divided between Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia and Russia. The project aims to contribute to mountain studies and to the climate and environmental history of socialist and post-socialist countries by proposing a new methodological approach to the study of climate change impacts in mountain regions.

For the research project based at the GWZO's "Humans and Environment" department, we are looking for a

Research Fellow (f/m/d)

in salary group 13 TV-L, 65% (employment according to WissZeitVG, limited until 31 August 2029, 26 hours per week) starting 01 November 2024.

Reference number: [24_05_A1](#)

Tasks:

- independent research in the Chinese part of the Altai Highlands (Xinjiang region)
- preparation of a dissertation
- linking the **individual project to the overall "Melting Mountains" project, to the departmental research and to the GWZO as a whole**

Your profile:

- very good university degree (M.A., M.Sc. or equivalent) in history, anthropology or social sciences
- excellent knowledge of English and Chinese
- knowledge of one of the languages of the GWZO study regions desirable
- willingness to work in an interdisciplinary environment
- interest in Eastern Europe and the research profile of the GWZO

We offer:

- an open and team-oriented working environment, flat hierarchies
- opportunities for professional development
- possibility to work remotely
- opportunity for individual academic profiling and further qualification
- a company pension scheme under the VBL
- workplace in the heart of the city

We actively support doctoral students in the preparation of their dissertations through ongoing supervision and training opportunities in research methods and publications. GWZO doctoral students participate in the Integrated Research Training Group programme of the Graduate School Global and Area Studies (GSGAS) at the University of Leipzig and in the GWZO Research Colloquium.

If you are interested, please send your detailed application, consisting of a letter of motivation (max. 1 page), your CV (max. 2 pages), a copy of your university diploma and a description of your doctoral project including a time schedule (max. 2,000 words), to the Director of the GWZO (Prof. Dr. Maren Röger, Reichsstr. 4-6, 04109 Leipzig) by 28 August 2024, quoting the reference number 24_05_A1, or by e-mail to: bewerbung@leibniz-gwzo.de.

An application by e-mail is questionable from a data protection point of view. The sender bears full responsibility.

If you have any questions about the position, please contact Prof Dr Julia Herzberg (julia.herzberg@leibniz-gwzo.de). Further information on the GWZO can be found on our website www.leibniz-gwzo.de.

In July 2021, the GWZO was awarded the TOTAL E-QUALITY prize for equal opportunities. The GWZO pursues the goal of professional equality between women and men and therefore strongly encourages women to apply. Disabled people with equal qualifications will be given priority.

Purpose and legal basis of the processing of personal data

Any data you provide us with in connection with your application will be processed only for the purposes of this selection process and, where appropriate, in preparation for your employment. The legal basis of the processing of your personal data is § 11 Sentence 1 of the Saxon Data Protection Act (SächsDSG) in conjunction with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The controller responsible for data protection is the addressee of the application as stated above. Your application documents will be made available to:

- the members of the appointment committee,
- the personnel management,
- the Equal Opportunity Commissioner,
- the Disability Officer and
- the works council

within the scope of their organisational and legal competences. Your personal data will be erased no later than six months after completion of the selection process. You have the following rights vis-à-vis the controllers with regard to your personal data: Right of access (Art. 15 GDPR), Right to rectification (Art. 16 GDPR); Right to erasure (Art. 17 GDPR), Right to restriction of processing (Art. 18 GDPR), and Right to object to data processing (Art. 21 GDPR). Please direct any questions to the data protection officers at the GWZO. Furthermore, there is a right of appeal to the Saxon data protection officer.