



November 13, 2017

Job offer

The **WZB Berlin Social Science Center**, Project Group “**National Educational Panel Study: Vocational Training and Lifelong Learning**” (Prof. Dr. Reinhard Pollak), is offering a position of a

Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

The position is full-time (currently 39 weekly hours). Starting date of the position is scheduled for January 15, 2018, but no later than April 1, 2018. The contract will be initially for the duration of three years with the possibility of renewal for two more years.

The position is located within two research projects:

The first interdisciplinary project, “Employment-Related Further Training in a Dynamic Labor Market: The Role of Business Cycles and Technological Change”, is part of the DFG priority program 1646 and runs until Dec 31, 2019. The project focuses on three research questions that are essential to understand the importance of further training in dynamic labor markets. First, the project will analyze how the automatization and digitalization of work processes across different occupations have influenced workers’ training participation. Second, the project will investigate how economic turbulences, in particular job displacements, influence workers’ training participation, and, third, the project will explore the returns to further training in the form of worker competences and job contents. As a joint research project of the WZB and the Institute for Employment Research (IAB), Nuremberg it uses data from the National Educational Panel Study (NEPS). The postdoctoral research fellow is supposed to conduct project-related research independently but also in co-operation with the project leaders and the team members at the IAB. About two thirds of the WZB position are devoted to this project.

The second project, “Adult Education and Lifelong Learning”, is part of the interdisciplinary network National Educational Panel Study (NEPS). The WZB is responsible for the yearly panel surveys among adults, with a specific focus on causes and consequences of educational and occupational biographies beyond initial vocational training. The postdoctoral research fellow is supposed to engage in the preparation of the annual questionnaires, including the development of new questionnaire modules. For the first two years, the postdoctoral fellow will devote about 1/3 of the position for this project, in the subsequent year, the fellow will be engaged in this project full-time.

Tasks:

- conducting project-related research independently but also in co-operation with the project leaders and other team members at the WZB, the IAB, and at other NEPS network partner institutions,
- preparing data sets, mainly from the National Educational Panel Study, for quantitative longitudinal analyses,

- conducting quantitative longitudinal analyses,
- coordinating research activities within the first project in co-operation with the Project Group Head and the partners at the IAB,
- reviewing the relevant literature from several scientific disciplines,
- developing new questionnaire modules on lifelong learning and occupational changes,
- participating in the preparation of field-work,
- conducting independent research on substantive and methodological research questions with NEPS data

Requirements:

- Very good or excellent doctoral degree in sociology or in a related field (economics, educational sciences, psychology);
- very good knowledge in the field of lifelong learning or career development / intragenerational social mobility / labor market research or competence development during adulthood;
- professional experience (incl. publications) in quantitative longitudinal data analysis and scientific data collection and handling (quantitative data); professional experience in longitudinal quantitative data collection is desired;
- excellent knowledge in data handling and longitudinal data analysis;
- excellent command of written and spoken German (for questionnaire design) and very good writing and communication skills in English;
- excellent organizational skills proven in previous project contexts;
- ability and willingness to work in an interdisciplinary multi-local team;
- willingness to travel frequently within Germany;
- willingness to achieve next individual qualification level (habilitation or equivalent); professional experiences are desired.

Remuneration: Salary level is group EG 13 TVöD (in accordance with German public service collective agreement)

Application

Candidates are kindly requested to send a valid application, including a letter of interest; a CV without photo, including a list of publications as well as information about science/project-relevant skills and experiences; copies of Ph.D. certificate, university diplomas, and course transcripts; copies of references (from employers and/or supervisors) and certificates regarding language skills, if applicable, by e-mail and in one PDF file until **December 10, 2017** to:

Sylvia Pichorner (sek-neps@wzb.eu) (subject: Application NEPS postdoc).

Job interviews are planned to take place December 19, 2017.

Equally well-qualified disabled persons will be given preference. The WZB expressly invites women and people with an immigrant background to apply.