School of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Disruption and Societal Change Centre (TUDiSC) offers a position as

**Research Associate / PhD Student**

(subject to personal qualification employees are remunerated according to salary group E 13 TV-L)

starting January 1, 2022. The position comprises 60 % of the fulltime weekly hours in the project “Transformative Place-Making for Uncertain Futures: Integrative Perspectives on Narratives, Education, and Design.” The position aims at obtaining further academic qualification (e.g. PhD). The position is limited until December 31, 2024. The period of employment is governed by the Fixed Term Research Contracts Act (WissZeitVG). An extension of the position until June 30, 2025 may be considered if the intermediate evaluation is positive. The period of employment is governed by the Fixed Term Research Contracts Act (Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz - WissZeitVG). The position aims at obtaining further academic qualification (PhD).

The initiative "Disruption and Societal Change" is part of the endeavor "Strengthening research areas with great potential" in the EXU focus PROFILE. It is intended to contribute to achieving scientific excellence and international visibility in all five Research Priority Areas of TUD, especially in the Emerging Field “Societal Change”, and thus aims to advance the university as a whole to a high level. In joint interdisciplinary work, the goal is to elevate disruption to a basic category of research into societal change and to record its preconditions, logics and effects more thoroughly by pursuing research into its foundations as well as into its possible applications. To the extent that this brings into focus the political, economic, social and cultural challenges that societies face in dealing with disruptions, TUDiSC is oriented toward the social sciences, the humanities and cultural studies, but it necessarily includes the expertise of natural, technical and life sciences in addressing these issues.


The TUDiSC Project “Transformative Place-Making for Uncertain Futures” understands the climate crisis as a systemic disruption of complex and situated life worlds and investigates the relations among place-making, agency, and visions of transformative futures through dialogues among literary/cultural studies, design and urban planning, and geography education. Drawing on the conceptual registers of the environmental humanities and guided by the recognition that the effects of the climate crisis highlight the interdependencies among social, cultural, material, affective, technological, and economic structures, the project examines the ways in which emancipatory visions of socially just and sustainable futures are linked to the transformation of specific relations to place. By analyzing processes of transformative place-making in and through ecotopian narratives, urban design, and learning environments, this project will develop a theoretical framework for the interrelations among the foundational concepts place, and agency, and future, which will be mobilized for the identification of paradigmatic place relations in the age of the climate crisis dialogue with social actors outside of the university. This project aims to make a theoretical and empirical contribution to interdisciplinary and self-reflexive perspectives on societal and cultural transformation.

**Tasks:**

- PhD project in literary/cultural studies with direct links to the research project “Transformative Place-Making for Uncertain Futures” and with reference to the focus areas of the Junior Professorship in North American Literature with a Focus on Future Studies (for more information, see [https://tu-dresden.de/gsw/slk/anglistik_amerikanistik/na-literatur/die-professur/profile-critical-future-studies](https://tu-dresden.de/gsw/slk/anglistik_amerikanistik/na-literatur/die-professur/profile-critical-future-studies))
- active participation in the interdisciplinary development of a theoretical framework on the interrelations among place, agency, and futures with particular reference to speculative
fiction and the environmental/energy humanities and in the interdisciplinary development of a typology of transformative place relations in the age of the climate crisis and the empirical modification and mobilization at specific locations outside the university
- publication activity and active participation in academic conferences in the context of the research project.
- The project-specific results can be used in the context of an academic qualification (PhD thesis) in the field of English and North American Studies.

Requirements:
- university degree in literary or cultural studies (MA or equivalent), preferably with a link to the environmental humanities or speculative fiction studies
- substantial knowledge in relevant fields such as the environmental/energy humanities, speculative fiction studies, transformation research, or place studies (preferably in the context of English/North American Studies)
- interest in interdisciplinary work on disruption and transformation at the intersection of literary/cultural studies, design and urban planning, and geography
- excellent communication skills in English and language competency in German
- goal of an academic qualification (PhD) and an innovative PhD project with links to the research project “Transformative Place-Making for Uncertain Futures”.
- Experience in conference organization and interdisciplinary research contexts is beneficial.

TU Dresden is a German university of excellence and offers you a lively research environment. Applications from women are particularly welcome. The same applies to people with disabilities. Please submit your comprehensive application (incl. 2-page letter of motivation, max. 5-page PhD proposal, curriculum vitae, copies of degree certificates) by October 1, 2021 (stamped arrival date of the university central mail service applies) via the TU Dresden SecureMail Portal https://securemail.tu-dresden.de by sending it as a single pdf-document to moritz.ingwersen@tu-dresden.de or by mail to: TU Dresden, Fakultät Sprach-, Literatur- und Kulturwissenschaften, Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik, Juniorprofessur für Literatur Nordamerikas mit dem Schwerpunkt Future Studies, Jun.-Prof. Dr. Moritz Ingwersen, Helmholtzstr. 10, 01069 Dresden. Please submit copies only, as your application will not be returned to you. Expenses incurred in attending interviews cannot be reimbursed.

Reference to data protection: Your data protection rights, the purpose for which your data will be processed, as well as further information about data protection is available to you on the website: https://tu-dresden.de/karriere/datenschutzhinweis