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The Institute of Social Anthropology at the University of Bern invites applications for the position of a **full-time PhD researcher**

for the project *Affective Solidarities: Transnational struggles and the making of sovereign futures from occupied territories*, for a period of four years from **1 August 2025**.

Affective Solidarities is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and led by Dr Pascale Schild. The project examines the formation of transnational solidarities through the lens of affect and emotion in the context of the Kashmiri freedom movement. Combining three distinct fields of research in social anthropology – sovereignty, solidarity and political affect – it advances the concept of “affective solidarities” to trace the processes and conditions of freedom struggles and related possibilities for political transformation. Based on multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork in Europe/the USA and South Asia (Kashmir, India and Pakistan), the project team (consisting of the PI and the PhD student) will explore how experiences of occupation and related desires for freedom and political self-determination bring people to solidarity movements, and how practices of solidarity and experiences of bridging differences in turn (re)shape notions of personal and political sovereignty.

The PhD candidate is expected to

- Plan and carry out an independent research project on the relations and practices of transnational solidarity with and within the Kashmiri freedom movement, focusing on Europe and/or the USA and the intersection with other solidarity movements and political institutions
- Conduct ethnographic fieldwork among the Kashmiri diaspora in Europe and/or the US with possible field trips to Kashmir, Pakistan and/or India
- Contribute to academic conferences and publications
- Support the team with organisational and administrative tasks

Required qualifications

- MA in Social Anthropology or related disciplines (Sociology, Political Science, South Asian Studies)
- Experience in ethnographic fieldwork and working with qualitative research methods
- Good knowledge of political anthropology and critical Kashmir studies
- Excellent writing skills in English
- Good communication skills in Urdu/Hindi, Pahari and/or Kashmiri and German are an advantage
- Strong organisational and communication skills
- Enthusiasm for working in a team



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What we offer

- A fully funded PhD position for four years
- The opportunity to develop expertise in the anthropology of solidarity, sovereignty and affect/emotion, multi-sited ethnography and critical Kashmir studies
- Supervision by leading experts in these fields of research
- Working in a dynamic and supportive environment at the University of Bern
- The opportunity to gain teaching experience in the third or fourth year

Except during the period of fieldwork, the PhD candidate will work at the University of Bern under the supervision of Prof Dr Sabine Strasser and Dr Pascale Schild. The salary corresponds to the official SNSF rates (approx. CHF 50,000 per year). Additional funding will be available for fieldwork, conference participation and a fellowship abroad.

Application

Please send your application including a cover letter, CV, contact information of two referees, a copy of your diploma and a relevant writing sample (master thesis or publication) in one pdf document to Pascale Schild, pascale.schild@unibe.ch, and Sabine Strasser, sabine.strasser@unibe.ch, by **28 February 2025**.

For further information on the position, please contact: pascale.schild@unibe.ch

For further information about the Institute of Social Anthropology at the University of Bern, please visit our website: <https://www.anthro.unibe.ch/>