Symposium & Interviews

Open-rank Professorships in:

- Political Economy
- Governance Innovation
- ICT for Nature and People
Introduction

The Wyss Academy for Nature and the University of Bern are pleased to announce a symposium presenting the candidates for three professorships in:

- Political Economy
- Governance Innovation
- ICT for Nature and People

These professorships are being recruited by the University of Bern and will be seconded to the Wyss Academy for Nature to lead highly interdisciplinary research teams. At the same time, the new professors will be affiliated to various institutes of the University of Bern and collaborate with its Centres of Excellence such as the Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research (OCCR), the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), or the World Trade Institute (WTI).

The candidates are invited to give an oral presentation during the afternoons of the symposium and will then be interviewed during the mornings by the hiring committee, professors of the involved institutes, as well as by lecturers, assistants and students.

Collaborators of the University of Bern are invited to participate to the presentations during the afternoon sessions. Due to COVID-19 situation, the entire symposium will be held virtually. All necessary links to the webinars can found in the programme of this booklet. The booklet is also available on https://www.wyssacademy.unibe.ch/careers

For general information on the Wyss Academy, please consult our temporary webpage or the project plan.

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Professorship in Governance Innovation

Tuesday, 15 December 2020

Advertised Position

The Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern is dedicated to sustainable futures for nature and people by strengthening and harmonizing nature conservation, natural-resource use, and human well-being in different regions around the world. Focusing on interactions between people, land, biodiversity, and climate change, and to foster required transformations, the Wyss Academy will produce path-breaking knowledge and actively build partnerships between science, policy, civil society, and the private sector to catalyze concrete solutions from local to global levels. The Wyss Academy for Nature invites applications for a full-term

Open-rank Professorship in Governance Innovation

Despite global interconnectedness, human decision-making and institution-building is often fragmented, poorly coordinated, and inapt in dealing with pressing social and ecological challenges. This professorship concentrates on the analysis of complex human-environmental systems with focus on the potential for innovative governance solutions in the Wyss Academy’s Regional Stewardship Hubs. It studies the role of the state and its interplay with other public and private stakeholders to affect the behavior of key agents of change from global to local levels. Integrated in the Wyss Academy, the professorship will advance the understanding of cross-sectoral and multi-level decisionmaking, and explore pathways toward coping with power disparities, technical, ecological and social changes. Special attention will be paid to identifying levers for sustainability transformations.

Candidates have a social-scientific background, ideally with a specialization in political science, environmental governance, or development studies. They have worked on governance challenges, have a strong empirical focus in their research, and use an innovative methodological portfolio. They strive to further develop their scientific excellence through inter- and trans-disciplinary research. Experience in conducting research in developing countries and embracing a solution-driven approach are important assets, and so is the commitment to collaborate with the five other new professorships at the Wyss Academy for Nature.

The position is a full time employment (80-100%) at the Wyss Academy for Nature located in Bern, Switzerland and will collaborate closely with the four Regional Stewardship Hubs. It will be affiliated to the Department of Social Sciences at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences and expected to collaborate with further research groups and centers at the University of Bern, such as the research competence centers CDE, WTI, and OCCR. Research leaders at the Wyss Academy for Nature are expected to compete for additional third-party funding enlarging their group activity.
### 15 DECEMBER 2020 - PRESENTATIONS

**Symposium**  
**Link:** [https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/97606031922?pwd=WIZUENIK0x2R2pUNm9XTEZPa2ZJdz09](https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/97606031922?pwd=WIZUENIK0x2R2pUNm9XTEZPa2ZJdz09)  
Webinar ID: 976 0603 1922  
Passcode: 961876  

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<tr>
<td>13:45-14:00</td>
<td>Welcome by Prof. Dr. Christian Leumann, Rector of the University of Bern</td>
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**Presentations: Governance Innovation**

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<tr>
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### 16 DECEMBER 2020 – INTERVIEWS

**Interviews**

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**16 DECEMBER 2020 - INTERVIEWS**

- **Hiring Committee:**  
- **Institutes and Centers:**  
- **Lecturers, assistants, students:**
Dr. Florence Metz

Born 27.01.1986


2008-2009: MA in European Studies and International Relations at the Institute for European Politics in Berlin.

2005-2008: BSc in Intercultural Communication at the Saarland University and University Paul Verlaine

Current Position:

Assistant Professor on Tenure Track at the Department of Governance and Technology for Sustainability at the University of Twente.

Most important Research Projects:

1. The comparative politics of decarbonization after the 1970s oil price shocks
2. Managing telecoupled landscapes for the sustainable provision of ecosystem services and poverty alleviation
3. Mobility- and behaviour-based Early-Warning System after the first wave of COVID-19 (EWS-COVID-19)

Publications:


Dr. Gabriele Spilker

Born 24.08.1979


2008-2009: Visiting Graduate Student at the University of California, San Diego

2000-2005: MSc in Public Policy and Management with the specialization in European Integration and International Organizations at the University of Konstanz.

Current Position: Professor for Environmental Politics at the University of Salzburg.

Most important Research Projects:

1. Environmental Change and Migration: The Role of Urbanization in Conflict Processes.
2. Public Attitudes Vis-à-vis International Trade Liberalization.
3. Environmental Change and Migration

Publications:


Dr. Adam Douglas Henry

Born 14.06.1978


2005: M.S. in Transportation Technology and Policy at the University of California, Davis


Current Position:

Professor of Environmental Politics at the University of Arizona.

Most important Research Projects:

1. Solving Grand Challenges in Coupled Natural Human Systems: Predicting Effective Governance Strategies for Managing Invasive Species
2. Urban Water Innovations Network (UWIN)
3. Linking Ecosystem Services and Governance of Water Resources in Urbanized Landscapes

Publications:


Dr. Christoph Oberlack

Born 11.04.1983


2004-2008: MSc (with distinction) in Economics at the University of Münster, Germany. Specialization in Econometrics, Environmental and Resource Economics, and Economic Ethics.

2002-2004: Pre-Diploma in Economics at the University of Osnabrück. With additional courses in Geography, Statistics, Psychology, Philosophy and Ethics.

Current Position:

Head of Cluster of 25 researchers at the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), University of Bern.

Most important Research Projects:

1. Is environmental justice necessary for human well-being? Comparative analysis of certification schemes, inclusive business, and solidarity economy strategies (COMPASS, ERC Starting Grant)
2. Governing telecoupled resource systems for environmental justice
3. Archetypes of Transnational Land Acquisitions: Towards Generalization of Case Study Knowledge for Informed Soil Governance

Publications:


Professorship in Political Economy

Wednesday 16 December 2020

Advertised Position

The Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern is dedicated to shaping sustainable futures for nature and people by strengthening and harmonizing nature conservation, human well-being, and natural resource use in different landscapes around the world. Focusing on interactions between people, land, biodiversity, and climate change, the Wyss Academy will produce path-breaking knowledge for transformation and actively build partnerships between science, policy, civil society, and the private sector to generate concrete solutions from local to global levels. The Wyss Academy for Nature invites applications for an

*Open-rank Professorship in Political Economy*

This professorship will focus on ways to steer actors towards innovative and sustainable forms of valuing nature. Integrated in the Wyss Academy, the successful candidate will lead a research group contributing to the overarching objective of providing actionable solutions and policies for sustainable livelihoods and the preservation of nature in the Wyss Academy’s Regional Stewardship Hubs. The group will study mechanisms for transformation through behavioral, market-driven and institutional adjustments. This includes integrating various concepts of the valuation of nature and political economy perspectives such as studying how trade and market integration at national and global levels can meet sustainability objectives.

The successful candidate has a background in political economy, ideally with a specialization in economics, political science, or political ecology. She or he has a proven track record on the valuation of nature, sustainable and inclusive value chains, or innovative trade policy instruments. Candidates will have a strong empirical focus in their research and be proficient in the use and development of innovative and experimental methodologies of the social sciences. Experience in conducting field research in developing countries is a plus. The successful candidate should also be at ease with interand transdisciplinary research. Embracing a solution-driven approach, applicable to vulnerable regions, is an important asset, as is the commitment to collaborate with the five other new professorships at the Wyss Academy for Nature.

The position is a full time employment (80-100%) at the Wyss Academy for Nature located in Bern, Switzerland and will collaborate closely with the four Regional Stewardship Hubs. It will be affiliated to the Department of Economics or Social Sciences at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences and expected to collaborate with further research groups and centers at the University of Bern, such as the research competence centers CDE, WTI, and OCCR. Research leaders at the Wyss Academy for Nature are expected to compete for additional third-party funding enlarging their group activity.
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### Symposium

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Dr. Gabriele Spilker

Born 24.08.1979

**2005-2009:** PhD in Political Science at the Center for Comparative and International Studies, ETH Zürich. Thesis: “Grow Rich and Clean up Later? Joint Effects of International Integration and Democracy on Environmental Quality in Developing Countries.”

**2008-2009:** Visiting Graduate Student at the University of California, San Diego

**2000-2005:** MSc in Public Policy and Management with the specialization in European Integration and International Organizations at the University of Konstanz.

**Current Position:**
Professor for Environmental Politics at the University of Salzburg.

**Most important Research Projects:**
1. Environmental Change and Migration: The Role of Urbanization in Conflict Processes.
2. Public Attitudes Vis-à-vis International Trade Liberalization.
3. Environmental Change and Migration

**Publications:**


Dr. Sebastian Berger

Born 09.05.1983


2003-2008: Diploma in Economics (specialization in game theory, behavioral and experimental economics, social and economic psychology) at the University of Cologne, Germany.

Current Position:
Assistant Professor (Valuation of Nature and Demand-Side Climate Change Mitigation using Field Experiments) at the University of Bern

Most important Research Projects:
1. The role of goal-support in sustainable decision making: Implications for policy-makers and digital businesses
2. Mitigation of food-related climate change and the uptake of alternative protein
3. The economics and psychology of valuation: Reference-dependent preferences

Publications:

Langenbach, D., Berger, S., Baumgartner, T., & Knoch, D. (2020). Cognitive resources moderate the relationship between pro-environmental environmental attitudes into behavior. Environment and Behavior, 52(9) 979-995

Dr. Kai Gehring

Born 29.04.1985

**2011-2015**: PhD in Economics at the University of Göttingen and Hannover. Thesis: “Political economy in a globalized world: How politics, culture, and institutional incentives shape economic and political outcomes.”

**2005-2011**: Diploma in Business Administration with majors in economics and finance at the University of Mannheim.

**Current Position:**
Ambizione Researcher in Political Economy and Development at the University of Zürich.

**Most important Research Projects:**
1. The impact of illegal resource production on local development and conflict
2. The long-term impact of natural resource extraction on environment and society
3. Understanding the origins of and changes in identities/norms and how they influence preferences and behavior

**Publications:**


Dr. Roland Hodler

Born 27.03.1975

2004: PhD in Economics at the University of Bern.

2001: Swiss Program for Beginning Doctoral Students, Study Center Gerzensee.

2000: MSc in Economics at the University of Bern

Current Position:

Professor of Economics and Director of SIAW-HSG, at the University of St. Gallen.

Most important Research Projects:

1. Government, institutions and economic activity: A long-term analysis
2. The adequateness of night-time light intensity as a proxy for economic and social development at the local level
3. Mapping and analysing the global online media market

Publications:


Professorship in ICT for Nature and People

Thursday 17 December 2020

Advertised Position

The Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern is dedicated to shaping sustainable futures for nature and people by strengthening and harmonizing nature conservation, human well-being, and natural resource use in different landscapes around the world. Focusing on interactions between people, land, biodiversity, and climate change, the Wyss Academy will produce path-breaking knowledge for transformation and actively build partnerships between science, policy, civil society, and the private sector to generate concrete solutions from local to global levels. The Wyss Academy for Nature invites applications for an

Open-rank Professorship in ICT for Nature and People

Information and communication technologies (ICT) and digitization have a great potential for transforming social-ecological systems towards sustainable development. This professorship will develop and deploy ICT innovations to sense, transfer, store, process, and analyze data efficiently, securely, timely, and reliably for understanding and shaping human-environment dynamics in the Wyss Academy’s Regional Stewardship Hubs. Examples might be mobile applications, remote sensing, machine learning, natural language processing, or distributed ledger technologies. The professorship will advance the development and application of ICT for increasing transparency, efficiency, participation, and accountability in the co-design of transformative pathways for nature and people between stakeholders from different sectors, places, and scales. To this end, the professorship will generate knowledge and tools on issues such as supply chain management, payment for ecosystem services, stakeholder involvement, citizen science, and others.

Candidates should have a strong research profile in Computer Science and/or certain application fields of Computer Science, e.g., business informatics, geomatics, etc., demonstrated by a strong publication track record in the respective field. The candidate should demonstrate outstanding academic capabilities or equivalent qualifications from more applied fields. The candidate should have a solid background and experience in technology transfer activities. Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary knowledge and work methods represent important assets for this task, and so is the commitment to collaborate closely with five other new professorships at the Wyss Academy for Nature in view of leveraging technology adoption for transformations to sustainable development.

The position is a full time employment (80–100%) at the Wyss Academy for Nature located in Bern, Switzerland and will collaborate closely with the four Regional Stewardship Hubs. It will be affiliated to the Institute of Computer Sciences at the Faculty of Science and expected to collaborate with further research groups and centers at the University of Bern. Research leaders at the Wyss Academy for Nature are expected to compete for additional third-party funding enlarging their group activity.
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### 18 DECEMBER 2020 - INTERVIEWS

**Interviews**

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CANDIDATES

Dr. Chen Lydia Y.

Born 22.09.1979

2006: Dual PhD in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research. Thesis: “Energy efficient web server farms.” At the Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, USA

2002: B. A. in Economics with a minor in Industrial Management, National Taiwan University, Vancouver, Canada

2001: Exchange Student in Economics Department, British Columbia University, Vancouver, Canada

Current Position:
Associate Professor at the Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands

Most important Research Projects:
1. Dapporx: Dependency-aware Approximate Computing Analytics and Processing Platform
2. Delft Technology Fellowship: Private and Approximate Big Data Systems
3. GENiC: Globally Optimized Energy Efficient Datacentres

Publications:
R.Han, C.Liu, S.Li, LydiaY.Chen, G.Wang, J.Tang, and J.Ye.“SlimML: Removing Non-critical Input Data in Large scale Iterative Machine Learning. ”To appear in IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering


Dr. Veronica Estrada-Galiñanes

Born 02.03.1975

2017: PhD, University of Neuchatel, Switzerland. Thesis: “Practical erasure codes for storage systems. The study of entanglement codes, an approach that propagates redundancy across storage locations to increase reliability and performance.”

2011: MSc in Arts and Science (Information and Science) at the University of Tokyo, Japan

2005: Specialist in Secure Communications and Cryptography, IESE Argentine Army

2003: BSc in Electronic Engineer Dipl. Ing at the University of Buenos Aires

Current Position:

Associate Professor and research deputy leader at resilience lab at the University of Stavanger, Norway

Most important Research Projects:

1. BBChain Project Efficient Trustworthy Computing with Blockchains and Biometrics funded by Research Council of Norway.
2. Credence: Collaboration Network for Excellent Education and Research in Dependable and Secure Distributed Systems.

Publications:

V. Estrada-Galiñanes and K. Wac. "Collecting, exploring and sharing personal data: why, how and where,” Journal DataScience Methods, Infrastructure, and Applications, IOS Press. (Published Nov 2019)

Dr. Leandro Navarro

Born 17.03.1964

2011 Research group director, Distributed Software Systems and Computer Networks

1992: PhD in Distributed Systems, Computer Networks and Collaborative software systems

1988: MSc in Telecommunication

Current Position

Associate Professor, accredited to full professor since 2011, Research group director at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya.

Most important Research Projects

1. Community Networks Testbed for the Future Internet (CONFINE)
2. Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate in Distributed Computing (EMJD-DC)
3. Network Infrastructure as Commons (NetCommons)

Publications


Dr. Christos Dimitrakakis

Born 26.08.1975


1998: MSc of Science in Telecommunications and Information Systems at the University of Essex, UK

1997: BSc of Engineering in Electronic Systems Engineering at the University of Manchester

Current Position

Professor at the University of Oslo, Norway

Most important Research Projects

1. Algorithms and Models for Socially Beneficial AI
2. Generative Adversarial Networks for exploration in reinforcement learning
3. Mechanism Design for Multiple AIs

Publications


Conclusions and Wrap-up by the Commissions

Friday 18 October 2020 - CONCLUSION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>14:00-14:55</td>
<td>Wrap-up Hiring Committee</td>
<td><a href="https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/941670622?pwd=TEgraGxhVE9aaXZFYYAxbk43Nlc2QT09">https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/941670622?pwd=TEgraGxhVE9aaXZFYYAxbk43Nlc2QT09</a></td>
<td>94167062213</td>
<td>501078</td>
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<td>Wrap-up Institute and Centers</td>
<td>We ask all institute groups (per professorship) to meet individually and if necessary to start a zoom meeting.</td>
<td><a href="https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/9725015388?pwd=TUhURHltNVNFSEd6OGN2QTZCcdGdEQT09">https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/9725015388?pwd=TUhURHltNVNFSEd6OGN2QTZCcdGdEQT09</a></td>
<td>972 5015 3884</td>
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<td>15:00-15:55</td>
<td>Chairpersons of groups report back to hiring committee</td>
<td><a href="https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/93996261581">https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/93996261581</a></td>
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<td>15:55-16:15</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>16:15-18:00</td>
<td>Conclusion by Hiring Committee</td>
<td><a href="https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/93996261581">https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/93996261581</a></td>
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