

**Reference file number
39/2019**

Leipzig, 5 February 2019

The German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig is a National Research Centre funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Its central mission is to promote theory-driven synthesis and data-driven theory in this emerging field. The concept of iDiv encompasses the detection of biodiversity, understanding its emergence, exploring its consequences for ecosystem functions and services, and developing strategies to safeguard biodiversity under global change. It is located in the city of Leipzig and it's a central institution of the Leipzig University, jointly hosted by the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, the Friedrich Schiller University Jena and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). Furthermore, it gains support by the Max Planck Society, the Leibniz Association and the Free State of Saxony. More Information about iDiv: www.idiv.de.

Leipzig University offers the following position as soon as possible:

**Postdoctoral Researcher
"Environmental drivers of biodiversity change"**

(initially limited to 2 years, with possible prolongation until 31 October 2021, pending on funding)

Salary: Entgeltgruppe 13 TV-L

Background:

While human activities are often implicated in causing biodiversity change, attributing these changes to specific drivers has proved challenging. Multiple anthropogenic pressures (e.g. land-use change, habitat loss, climate change) are hypothesized to be responsible, each of which is multi-faceted and scale-dependent. Because of a number of methodological and theoretical challenges, few generalizations have emerged about biodiversity-environmental-change relationships and the explanatory power of current modelling approaches is typically low. This project aims to address these challenges.

We offer an exciting two-year Postdoc position at the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig to develop data-driven theory on the attribution of biodiversity change. The project is supervised by Dr. Carsten Meyer (iDiv's [Macroecology & Society group](#)) in collaboration with Prof. Jonathan Chase (iDiv's [Biodiversity Synthesis group](#)) and other researchers at iDiv and beyond (Dr. Shane Blowes, Dr. Diana Bowler, Prof. Andreas Huth, Prof. Marta Jarzyna, Prof. Ingolf Kühn).

Job description:

- developing a conceptual framework and general methodology to guide model-building for attribution of biodiversity change to drivers across taxa
- carrying out research attributing biodiversity change to environmental drivers across scales, using cutting-edge statistical tools and large-scale spatiotemporal datasets on species' abundances (e.g. North American Breeding Bird Survey, BioTime) and environmental variables
- developing analysis scripts/workflows that help enable a larger and longer-lasting infrastructure for global-change analysis
- leading the dissemination of project results via high-quality journal publications and conference presentations
- organization of project-related workshops

Requirements:

- successfully completed PhD in a project-related field (e.g. macroecology, community, ecology or statistics) and interest in developing a career in quantitative ecology
- excellent knowledge of biodiversity theory (population-, landscape-, community-, and/or macro-ecological)
- strong analytical skills and experience in hierarchical statistical modelling; specific prior experience in spatiotemporal modelling, Bayesian statistics, or working with community/population time-series data is advantageous, but not a prerequisite
- experience in parallel computing (HPC environment), and version control (e.g. Git) will be advantageous
- pro-active, results-oriented and with excellent team and communication skills

We offer:

- two-year postdoc position in a highly dynamic, collaborative and interdisciplinary environment
- access to powerful computing resources and support by iDiv's informatics units and collaborators
- career-building support (e.g. in proposal writing, teaching opportunities, networking) over the course of the project
- iDiv is a highly international centre with employees from 30 countries and various forms of support for foreign-language employees (Welcome Centre, German classes, etc.). Leipzig is an attractive city with rich culture and beautiful surroundings, and international visitors usually find it easy to settle in.

Applications are accepted **19 march 2019**.

Applications should include:

- cover letter describing motivation, research interests & relevant experience
- curriculum vitae, including a detailed account of relevant skills/prior experience
- digital copy of your best first-authored journal publication
- access to one of your recent statistics/modelling projects relevant for this position (e.g. paper, GitHub repository)
- contact details of two scientific references
- digital copy of PhD certificate

Applications with reference file number **39/2019** are accepted via our application portal under apply.idiv.de. We prefer applications via our application portal, hard copy applications can be sent to

**German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research – iDiv
Frau Franziska Hübner
Deutscher Platz 5e, 04103 Leipzig.**

For queries on the application process, please contact Franziska Hübner (franziska.huebner@idiv.de); for project-related questions, contact Dr. Carsten Meyer (carsten.meyer@idiv.de).

Applying via email is questionable under data protection law. The sender assumes full responsibility.

Severely disabled persons are encouraged to apply and will be given preference in the case of equal suitability.

Data Protection

Your personal data which is included in your application documents or obtained during the interview shall be processed exclusively for the purposes of the selection process for the advertised position. The legal basis for data processing is Article 11 Paragraph 1 of the Saxon Data Protection Implementation Act (Sächsisches Datenschutzdurchführungsgesetz) in conjunction with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The person responsible for the application process is the addressee of the application provided below in this advertisement. As part of the application process your personal data will be passed on to the following persons or departments within Leipzig University

- members of the selection committee, - the HR office,
- the Commissioner for Equal Opportunities,
- the Representative Body for Severely Disabled Employees and
- if necessary, the Staff Council

as part of their organisational or statutory responsibilities.

Your personal data will be deleted at the latest six months following completion of the selection process. In accordance with the GDPR you have the following rights vis-à-vis the addressee of the application if the relevant statutory requirements exist: right of access (Art. 15 of the GDPR), right of rectification of incorrect personal data (Art. 16 of the GDPR); data deletion (Art. 17 of the GDPR), restriction of processing (Art. 18 of the GDPR) and objection to processing (Art. 21 of the GDPR). If you have any questions, please contact the data protection officer at Leipzig University, Mr Thomas Braatz, Augustusplatz 10, 04109 Leipzig. You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Saxon data protection commissioner.