

## Call | FSP-Fellowships 2024

### **"Environmental Humanities in Mountain Regions" (01.10.2024-31.10.2024, University of Innsbruck)**

Fellowships for pre-docs and post-docs for a one-month stay at the Research Area *Cultural Encounters - Cultural Conflicts* of the University of Innsbruck

#### **Application deadline: March 22, 2024**

The research Area *Cultural Encounters - Cultural Conflicts* invites up to three fellows (pre-docs or post-docs) to Innsbruck for one month to participate in various activities, connect with local colleagues, dedicate themselves to their own research and discuss it in different settings.

#### **Topic**

In recent years, the environmental humanities have developed as a new field of research in the humanities, social sciences and cultural studies. Based on the assumption that environmental issues are not the sole domain of the natural and technical sciences, but must be considered primarily on the basis of interdisciplinary approaches, new perspectives on environmental research are currently emerging. While in this field the humanities and cultural studies focus on the ecological crises of our present in active dialog with the natural sciences, we want to devote ourselves in particular to the human-nature-relationships in mountain regions.

We reflect on these relationships with regard to their historical and contemporary conceptions and examine them as cultural inscriptions of meaning in their various dimensions. The focus lies on diverse forms of inequality as the result of hierarchizing processes that place human and more-than-human life in different relationships to the surrounding environments. We are especially interested in the multi-relational interweaving of these socio-cultural dynamics with ecological processes and changes in alpine regions.

Questions for an examination of the topic of Environmental Humanities in Mountain Regions could be as follows:

- How do we talk about our environment and thereby construct it? What kind of narratives shape or have shaped the perception of nature and the environment in historical periods and in the present?
- How do we produce and communicate knowledge about ecological aspects? What perspectives and viewpoints are negotiated in the process?
- How can the concepts of nature and culture be related to each other, can they even be considered separately?
- How do people interact with their animate and inanimate environment(s), which landscapes develop as a result and what role do the imaginaries of these spaces play?
- What ideas of a 'good life' in alpine areas prevail in our society? What is the significance of the term 'development' in alpine areas, and what kind of ideas is it linked to? How are changes narrated?
- To what extent do social, cultural practices, literature and art shape our ideas of nature, can interactions be identified? How do cultural manifestations and practices create natural and cultural spaces? Which objects are identified as natural or unnatural? How is alpine landscape aestheticized?
- What forms of a poetics of the Alpine exist? What formal, thematic, aesthetic strategies are used to poetically produce alpine landscapes? What interactions between text and landscape can be identified?
- What significance does the idea of wilderness have in connection with alpine imaginaries? What does historical and cultural comparison reveal?
- What conflicts concerning use, resources, environmental justice or other conflicts are present in alpine spaces, and how are they narrated? Who is involved in these conflicts?

- How are climatic changes and ecological crises in mountain regions conveyed and artistically processed?

In order to investigate these questions, the research Area *Cultural Encounters - Cultural Conflicts* invites up to three fellows to Innsbruck for one month.

### **Structure and schedule**

For one month, the fellows will have the opportunity to work freely as well as to participate in thematically relevant joint events. At the center of the activities is a joint workshop in which the fellows present their own research projects and ideas and discuss them with researchers from Innsbruck. The final event is a joint research workshop to reflect on the exchange and for a possible outlook.

The fellowships are designed to be decidedly open beyond the research topic "Environmental Humanities in Mountain Regions". Accordingly, we welcome applications from all relevant fields of research and ask all applicants to briefly discuss the structures and resources they would like for their own research stay, as well as the topics and formats they would like to contribute to.

### **Funding**

Thanks to the support of the International Relations Office of the University of Innsbruck, the Research Area *Cultural Encounters - Cultural Conflicts* covers the travel costs (within the EU up to € 400, outside the EU up to € 800). In addition, the fellows receive a grant of € 900,- to cover accommodation and food costs. Support in finding accommodation will be provided where possible.

### **How to apply**

We ask for an application with

- a brief description of the planned research project and possible formats/topics for the workshop or in the form of presentations (approx. 1 page).
- Curriculum vitae/CV (if applicable with list of presentations and publications)
- Please send applications by March 22, 2024 to [fsp-kultur@uibk.ac.at](mailto:fsp-kultur@uibk.ac.at).