



## Post-Doc Position on Deliberation, Ethics and Climate Economics

Reference number PD\_2021\_10

Solving the climate crisis also requires better approaches to the diverse normative viewpoints – including values, ethics, interests and concepts of risk – that are ineliminable in the economic discussions about climate policy. The Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change (MCC) in Berlin has established itself prominently in the research landscape on climate policy. We conduct world-class research on climate solutions and offer an inspiring interdisciplinary environment for scientific excellence.

If you enjoy working in a very collaborative, supportive and international team and you feel passionate about reflecting on complex value issues in economics in order to inform climate policy stakeholders – then we encourage you to apply for this position in MCC’s working group on Scientific Assessments, Ethics, and Public Policy (headed by Dr. Martin Kowarsch):

### ***Post-doctoral researcher in deliberative integration of values, valuations and ethics in economics***

The successful candidate will contribute to the development of a novel approach to normative viewpoints in climate economics.

#### **Job duties**

The successful candidate will be located at the MCC in Berlin and work on the “Rivet” project funded by FORMAS (Sweden). This project is a collaboration between the Department of Philosophy at Lund University (Dr. Henrik Thorén, project leader) in Sweden, and the MCC.

Climate economists use a wide array of models to explore the impacts and damages of climate change, and the merits of different mitigation policies and strategies. In the Rivet project, we ask: what are the normative assumptions in these models? How are these assumptions selected over others, and what are their limitations? And what alternative assumptions and approaches to diverse normative viewpoints are available? The major purpose of this project is to develop a deliberative approach to the integration of diverse normative viewpoints in model-based climate economics in order to improve decision-making.

The project is structured around three work-packages (WPs). WP1 is a large and interdisciplinary literature review coupled with an interview study targeting modelers and experts that seeks to identify central normative assumptions in climate economic modelling. WP2 (led by the MCC) involves the designing of a deliberative and practical approach for integrating divergent values at the science-policy interface, and WP3 involves facilitating the transdisciplinary aims of the project through continual and close interactions with stakeholders.

However, the key outputs will be publications in leading disciplinary and interdisciplinary scientific journals.

Major tasks of the candidate include:

- Lead on the publication of scientific results in esteemed, peer-reviewed international journals;
- Contribute to other project publications and other types of outputs, including stakeholder dialogue, policy briefs and reports;
- Strongly contribute to the management of the Rivet project;
- Participate in project meetings and coordinate with MCC's administration and the project partner in Lund;
- Present results at international conferences.

### **Job requirements**

We are looking for talented and enthusiastic individuals with a strong interest in the project. If you fit some of the requirements well but not others, we would still encourage you to apply or inquire with us:

- PhD in philosophy, or social sciences, or economics;
- Methodological background and expertise relevant to the project tasks, particularly concerning climate economics and deliberation;
- Excellent scientific track record;
- Active interest in ethics, value research and climate policy – relevant scientific publications in these fields are an additional asset;
- Strong motivation;
- Excellent organizational and project management skills, including also communication skills;
- Team orientation as well as written and oral fluency in English.

We are especially interested in applications with one of the following academic backgrounds:

- (1) researchers with a background in the philosophy of science, focusing upon climate economics/deliberative valuation
- (2) researchers in environmental or ecological economics, with a focus upon deliberative valuation
- (3) researchers with a background in climate ethics, and a strong grounding in climate economics and deliberative democracy

Researchers whose profiles fit one of these descriptions are strongly encouraged to apply. Researchers with other profiles and backgrounds relevant to the project are also welcome to apply.

### **What we offer**

- The chance to work on a highly relevant and timely challenge concerning climate policy action;
- An inspiring, international, interdisciplinary, diverse and multi-cultural work environment in a world leading research institutes on climate policy;
- A working group that values novel and constructive approaches to value diversity and has great expertise in researching policy-oriented integrated assessment processes as well as designing participatory deliberative processes at the science-policy-society interface;
- High-impact research: MCC researchers publish in renowned international journals, including Nature, Science, or PNAS and have impacted international climate change assessments such as IPCC reports;
- Opportunities for cooperation with MCC's national and international network of leading climate & energy research institutes and think tanks
- Flexible and family-friendly working times and possibilities for home office;
- Opportunities to travel to conferences and international project meetings.
- Participation in employee retirement provision;
- An attractive workplace in an old industrial building at the EUREF-Campus in Berlin Schöneberg.

The MCC provides a collaborative working place environment that values diversity, tolerance, and equity. We aim to improve the diversity of our institute, especially in leadership positions. We therefore particularly welcome applications by women and other genders, as well as other underrepresented groups (see [here](#) for more information). The MCC provides an exciting, collaborative, interdisciplinary and international research and working atmosphere.

### **Appointment terms**

We seek candidates at the post-doc level. We would like to recruit for 1 January 2022, but would also consider excellent candidates who wish to begin later. The position is funded for 30 months. Remuneration is in accordance with German public tariff scheme, salary group E13 TV-L. For candidates with outstanding qualifications and sufficient job experience, also salary group E14 TV-L would be possible. Contract duration would then have to be reduced to 24 months.

It is a full-time position with a weekly working time of 40 hours per week. The position can also be filled on a part-time basis with slightly reduced working time per week.

### **Applications**

For application please send an e-mail with the reference number as subject **PD\_2021\_10** to Mrs. Franziska Faber, [jobs@mcc-berlin.net](mailto:jobs@mcc-berlin.net), with an electronic application by **Friday, 26 November 2021**, which should contain the following in one single pdf file:

- Motivation letter
- Curriculum Vitae, mentioning two academic references
- One representative academic paper
- Copies of relevant certificates

Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted for a job interview. For content-related questions, you can contact Dr. Martin Kowarsch, [kowarsch@mcc-berlin.net](mailto:kowarsch@mcc-berlin.net).

### **Portrait of the MCC**

MCC was founded in 2012 by Stiftung Mercator and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) and since 2014 it is affiliated with the Technical University (TU) Berlin. Our research is carried out in seven working groups and it addresses the grand challenges of climate change and of governing the global commons. Our research is rooted primarily in economics and other social sciences. We provide scientific policy advice and aim to identify policy-relevant solutions. Cooperation with high-profile international partner organizations provides a network of excellence and foster the high quality of the research at MCC. Within a few years, MCC has established itself prominently in the climate policy research landscape, ranked as No. 1 of climate think tanks in Europe.

For more information about the institute, please visit <http://www.mcc-berlin.net>.