

Assistant Professor

(post-doc, non-tenure track)

- part time (16 hours/week)
- limited for the duration of a maternity-related leave

The Institute for Social Change and Sustainability (IGN) at WU Vienna invites applications for the above position, starting on **April 1st, 2026**, or soon thereafter. The IGN explores issues of sustainability (political, social, ecological) from a social science perspective, most notably political sociology, political/social-democratic/state theory and social movement studies. Our research places great emphasis on the democracy/state/sustainability nexus, on obtaining a detailed understanding of why the societal transformation to sustainability turns out to be so immensely difficult, and how ongoing political shifts impact on the politics of (un)sustainability.

Recent research projects undertaken at the IGN, the international conferences it has hosted, and its research workshops have given rise to collective publications such as:

- “Beyond the Eco-Emancipatory Project: Socio-ecological crisis and the metamorphosis of Western modernity”, Special Issue of *European Journal of Social Theory*, 2025
- “Revisiting the Promises of Eco-Political Experimentation: Achievements, Appropriations, Limits”, Special Issue of *Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy*, 2024
- “The Dialectic of Emancipation – Transgressing Boundaries and the Boundaries of Transgression”, Special Issue of *European Journal of Social Theory*, 2022.

The vacant position is open to suitably qualified social scientists who pursue an ambitious and innovative research agenda fitting the profile of the IGN and show enthusiasm for teamwork and teaching. The main tasks include:

- Pursuing an ambitious research and publication agenda within IGN’s core areas
- Contributing to ongoing and acquiring new externally funded research projects
- Providing high-quality teaching on bachelor and master levels (1 course per semester)
- Contributing to the management of the institute and its conferences and other activities
- Representing the institute in third mission activities, media outreach and expert talks

We welcome applications from candidates with the following qualifications:

- PhD in a relevant social science discipline (sociology, political science, human geography, socioeconomics, etc.)
- Academic expertise in one or more of the following areas: environmental and political sociology, sustainability research, transformation research, social movement studies, social theory, political theory, democratic theory
- Publications in international, peer reviewed academic journals
- Experience in co-authoring academic publications
- Experience in applying for and acquiring grants for research projects and/or scholarships
- Experience as researcher contributing to externally funded research projects
- Experience in academic teaching in fields relevant to the IGN
- Excellent written and spoken English

Minimum monthly gross salary: €1,973.16 (14 times per year). This salary may be adjusted based on equivalent prior work experience. In addition, we offer a wide range of attractive social benefits.

Please submit your application via WU’s job portal (ID 2646) by **February 4, 2026**. For any queries please contact: ingolfur.bluehdorn@wu.ac.at.