

The Faculty of Sociology, working group 6 "Sociology of Transnationalisation and Social Anthropology", Prof. Dr. Minh Nguyen has the following job opening in the ERC funded project "FinancialLives":

## Research Position (doctoral candidate) Social Anthropology - China



**ID: Wiss25272**

- Start: 01.11.2025
- part-time 75 %
- salary according to Remuneration level E13 TV-L
- fixed-term

FinancialLives is an anthropological research project focusing on the expanding range of financial activities by working households to understand how they use financial instruments to manage risk, ensure social protection and fulfil their aspirations. Funded by the European Research Council's Consolidator Grant scheme, FinancialLives is an anthropological enquiry into the expanding range of financial activities by working households in China, Vietnam and Laos (<http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/financiallives/>). Through another empirical focus on commercial banks, it also seeks to understand how financial institutions interact with working households in the promotion of financial products and services, and the social transformations thereby generated.

The project includes five component ethnographic studies by two post-doctoral researchers and three doctoral researchers. The holder of this PhD research position will conduct an ethnographic study of the financial activities of working households in China.

### Your Tasks

- carry out ethnographic field research in China, studying working household's strategies, motivations and negotiations around financial activities as well as household relationships to the financial system and labour market (33 %)
- write up the analysis and prepare a book proposal based on the ethnographic study for submission to an international journal (27 %)
- contribute to the events and publications of the project in the form of presentations, book

### Your Profile

#### We expect

- completed relevant academic university degree (e. g. Master's or Diploma or equivalent) in anthropology, sociology or related disciplines (Master's thesis should be in English or German)
- ability to conceptualise and design empirical research
- genuine interest in and readiness to undertake ethnographic field research with working households

- chapters and articles in edited volumes (27 %)
- participate in project activities and work together with the research team on the common goals of the project (13 %)

Employment is conducive to scientific qualification.

## We offer

- salary according to Remuneration level E13 TV-L
- fixed-term (4 years) (§ 2 (1) sentence 1 of the WissZeitVG; in accordance with the provisions of the WissZeitVG and the Agreement on Satisfactory Conditions of Employment, the length of contract may differ in individual cases)
- part-time 75 %
- internal and external training opportunities
- amount of health, consulting and prevention services
- reconcilability of family and working life
- flexible working hours
- collegial working environment
- open and pleasant working atmosphere
- modern work environment with digital processes

- familiarity with the political economic contexts of China and ability to navigate its social and cultural settings
- excellent command of spoken and written Chinese
- excellent command of spoken and written English
- ability to work independently and as part of a team
- good organisational and communication skills

### Preferred experience and skills

- experience with ethnographic research
- determination to submit the doctoral dissertation within four years
- interest in academic discussions of finance and/or labour
- awareness and experiences with ethical matters of social research
- experiences in working with factory workers

## Application Procedure

We are looking forward to receiving your detailed application in English with the following content:

- cover letter explaining why you are interested in the post and what makes you suitable for it
- short research proposal of 3-5 pages spelling out how you are going to proceed with the study if selected
- CV (including scientific skills and research experience)
- degree certificates and summary of MA thesis; one writing sample (thesis chapter, working paper, journal article, etc.)

To apply, please preferably use our online form via the application button below.

**application deadline: 27.08.2025**

### Contact

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Bielefeld University has received a number of awards for its achievements as an equal-opportunity employer and has been recognized as a family-friendly university. The university welcomes applications from women. This is particularly true with regard both to academic and technical posts as well as positions in information technology as well as the skilled crafts and trades. Applications are handled according to the provisions of the state statutes on equal opportunity. Applications from suitably qualified handicapped and severely handicapped persons are explicitly encouraged.

At Bielefeld University on request positions can be carried out with reduced working hours as long as this does not conflict with official needs.

