



PhD Student, GIScience and Linguistics/Dialectology (SynMod)

The GIScience Center at the Department of Geography, University of Zurich (UZH) invites applications for a PhD studentship in the area of language and space. The position will start on **01 December 2012**, or as soon as possible thereafter, and is for three years, with an option for an extension of up to four years. Salary is commensurate with the pay scale of the Swiss National Science Foundation.

The successful applicant will be working under the supervision of Prof. Robert Weibel on the interdisciplinary research project SynMod ("Modeling of Morphosyntactic Area Formation in Swiss German"). SynMod is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation SNF and aims to study area formation in Swiss dialects, in close collaboration with the dialectology group of the German Department of UZH, where a postdoctoral fellow will be working on the project. Using data from the "Syntactic Atlas of Swiss German Dialects" (SADS), the PhD student will be working to develop computational models of spatial variation of grammatical features in Swiss German dialects. This will entail testing linguistic hypotheses from dialect research, in particular about the correspondence of linguistic features with geographic features, such as topographic barriers or cultural borders. A clear set of research goals are identified in the full project proposal, but the successful candidate will be expected to develop and refine these further.

The GIScience Center hosts several research groups working on diverse topics including language and space, geographic information retrieval, digital terrain modeling, uncertainty modeling, movement analysis, digital cartography and mobile systems, geovisual analytics, and spatial cognition. For more information, see <http://www.geo.uzh.ch/gis>.

We are looking for a highly motivated, independent person with a passion for science. We offer outstanding working conditions, a stimulating environment, and high quality of life in Zurich. Applicants are required to have completed a Masters level degree in a relevant field such as geographic information science (GIScience), computational linguistics, computer science, or geomatics. The position will entail carrying out data-oriented computational research. Familiarity with methods of GIScience, in particular spatial statistics, and programming experience will be an advantage, or must be acquired during the project. Knowledge of German and of Swiss-German dialects is considered a plus. An interest in issues of language and linguistics, in particular dialectology, will be expected. You will also have a very good standard of written and spoken English.

Send curriculum vitae, a motivation statement, transcripts, and contact details for two referees (including e-mail addresses) **in a single PDF document, and with reference "SynMod"**, to Robert.Weibel@geo.uzh.ch, no later than **31 August 2012**. For further questions, please contact Robert Weibel at the above email address.