



**SPP 2361**  
On the Way to the  
Fluvial Anthroposphere



The research group "Biodiversity Research and Systematic Botany" (Prof. Dr. Anja Linstädter) at the University of Potsdam invites applications for the following position:

**Academic staff member (PhD student; f/m/) for Plant Ecology (EG 13 TV-L)**

*65% of the regular weekly working time for a limited period of three years.*

The position is embedded in the research project **"The Lower Havel River and Greater Donaumoos Regions: 'Failed' or 'successful' reclamation of floodplains and peatlands? – A comparative analysis"** in the context of the newly established DFG [Priority Programme 2361 "On the Way to the Fluvial Anthroposphere"](#). The floodplains and wetlands in Central Europe are subject to massive human influences and these have already led to significant ecological changes in the pre-industrial era. The main goal of the doctoral project is to reconstruct the effects of human interventions on vegetation dynamics, in particular on the functional composition and diversity of vegetation in the past centuries. To this end, existing and new palynological and vegetation records will be analysed in an interdisciplinary and international team. By studying the pollen-plant functional trait linkage, this doctoral project will also contribute to the novel research field of functional paleoecology.

**Your tasks:**

- Use of advanced concepts and methods of functional plant ecology and paleoecology
- Research stays and field data collection (vegetation relevés, surface pollen sampling) in the two study regions within an interdisciplinary research team
- Preparation of pollen samples, pollen identification and microscope counting of pollen slides
- Compilation of plant functional traits from trait databases
- Evaluation of present-day relationships between modern pollen spectra and plant functional traits in the study region
- Application of numerical indices to assess past changes in functional composition and diversity of vegetation based on vegetation and pollen records
- Data management and data analysis in an interdisciplinary research team
- Publication and presentation of results.

**Your profile:**

- Excellent MSc degree in plant ecology or a related field
- Good ability to think conceptually
- Profound theoretical and practical knowledge in biodiversity research
- Very good knowledge in biostatistics and modern statistical methods (especially multivariate statistics and GLMM with R)
- Motivation for field, lab and microscope based research activities
- Experience in vegetation sampling and/or pollen analysis is a great advantage
- Willingness to work in an interdisciplinary research team
- Committed and team-oriented
- Excellent knowledge of written and spoken English; German skills are an advantage
- Willingness to travel in Germany for extended periods of time
- Driving licence
- Fieldwork experience in Central European floodplains and/or peatlands is desirable.

**Our offer:**

- A stimulating work environment where you are encouraged to explore new scientific directions
- A vibrant scientific exchange with national and international researchers
- Participation in an innovative, interdisciplinary research environment
- Various continuing education opportunities at the University of Potsdam
- A job at one of the most beautiful university locations in Germany.

**The position is available from June 1, 2023.** The University of Potsdam aims to increase the proportion of women in research and teaching and therefore invites qualified female applicants to apply. The University of Potsdam values the diversity of its members and pursues the goals of equal opportunities regardless of gender, nationality, ethnic and social origin, religion/belief, disability, age, sexual orientation or identity. In the case of equal suitability, women within the meaning of Section 7 (4) BbgHG (Brandenburg Higher Education Act) and people with severe disabilities will be given preferential consideration. Applications from abroad and from persons with a migration background are expressly welcome.

Applicants should send their application materials (as one PDF file containing CV, copies of all certificates, motivation letter, contact data of at least two referees), **by March 24, 2023 at the latest by e-mail** to Ms. Jennifer Kaminski: [biodiversity@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:biodiversity@uni-potsdam.de) with the subject line "Academic staff member in functional plant ecology".