



UNIL | Université de Lausanne

Institut de géographie  
et durabilité

## Doctoral position on new mountain commons and territorial development (100%)

### Introduction

The University of Lausanne (UNIL) is a higher teaching and research institution composed of seven faculties where nearly 15,000 students and 5,000 collaborators, professors, and researchers work and study between the Dorigny campus and the CHUV, Epalinges and Sion sites. As an employer, it encourages excellence, recognition of individuals and responsibility.

### Presentation

The Institute of Geography and Sustainability (IGD) seeks to fill a position of **Doctoral researcher** for a period of 4 years within the SNSF-funded project *Mountain COMmons: Questioning past and present Commons to address territorial development issues in MOUNTain areas (ComMount)* (more information : <https://tinyurl.com/ywtr7dcj>).

The IGD is an interdisciplinary community of about 130 academics that work in the fields of Geography and Sustainability. With 27 professors and lecturers, and more than 60 PhD students and Post-docs, the department offers a vibrant, stimulating environment for cutting-edge research. It hosts regular lecture series and distinguished guest researchers from around the world.

### Job information

Starting date: **01.04.2023** (or to be agreed)

Contract length: 4 years

Activity rate: 100%

Workplace: University of Lausanne, Institute of Geography and Sustainability, **UNIL-Sion Campus, Bramois**, Switzerland.

### Your responsibilities

The successful candidate will participate in the above-mentioned research project that UNIL (Prof. Leila Kebir, Prof. Emmanuel Reynard, and Prof. Stéphane Nahrath) is carrying out in collaboration with the Università della Svizzera italiana (Prof. Luigi Lorenzetti and Dr. Roberto Leggero) and the Centre régional d'étude des populations alpines CREPA (Dr. Yann Decorzant).

He/she will contribute to the realisation of the different research tasks as well as to the organisation of the project. **In this context, he/she will complete a PhD thesis under the supervision of Prof. Leila Kebir and Prof. Emmanuel Reynard (UNIL-IGD).**

In a context of global change, mountains are faced with major economic, social and environmental challenges. Among the different possible levers to respond and adapt to these challenges, "new commons" appear as potential ones. This interdisciplinary project (economics, geography, history and political science) aims to understand how these new commons - i.e. commons associated to the provision of goods and services from resources other than natural ones - are structured and organised and how they relate (or not) to the 'historical commons' that still exist in mountain regions. Furthermore, we question the geographical, social, political and economic conditions of their emergence and development. In order to answer these questions, we will conduct in-depth interdisciplinary case studies in the Swiss Alpine region. This will allow us to understand the role of these new

commons as a lever for **territorial development** (object of the present PhD thesis) and the evolution of territorial governance.

*In parallel to the thesis carried out within the framework of this position, a second thesis on the governance of the new mountain commons will be carried out in the field of political science/history. The two PhD students will work closely together throughout the project.*

### **Your qualifications**

- Master degree in social sciences or humanities (economics, geography, political science, sociology, planning, etc.). Knowledge on commons would be appreciated;
- Strong interest in territorial development and/or in mountain territories, particularly in tourism;
- Taste for research, both theoretical (conceptualization) and empirical (field surveys, documentary);
- Good knowledge of qualitative research methods;
- Good interpersonal skills as well as initiative and autonomy;
- At least passive knowledge of French (communication language); good knowledge of English required (oral and written) as well as some knowledge of German and/or Italian;
- Ability to collaborate in an interdisciplinary research team.

### **What the position offers you**

We offer a stimulating work environment and atmosphere, with dedicated support for developing an academic career. Members of our research groups become part of international networks and benefit from opportunities to attend conferences and workshops around the world. Salary is based on the salary scale for doctoral researchers of the Swiss National Science Foundation ([www.snf.ch](http://www.snf.ch)) and additional funds for fieldwork and conferences are available. Different formation opportunities are possible at UNIL or in Swiss institutions that promote post-doctoral research.

### **Your application**

**Deadline: 31.01.2023** (recruitment interviews will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2023)

Please submit the following documents in PDF format only via the career website of the University of Lausanne: <https://tinyurl.com/5n8rj5he>

- Letter of motivation;
- Full CV;
- Scans of university degrees and course transcripts/marks;
- The Master's thesis (and a research paper, if available);
- Contact details of two referees.

Only applications through the website will be taken into account.

### **Contact for further information**

Prof. Leila Kebir ([leila.kebir@unil.ch](mailto:leila.kebir@unil.ch))

Prof. Emmanuel Reynard ([emmanuel.reynard@unil.ch](mailto:emmanuel.reynard@unil.ch))

### **Additional information**

UNIL is committed to equal opportunities and diversity: [www.unil.ch/egalite](http://www.unil.ch/egalite)

UNIL supports early career researchers: [www.unil.ch/graduatecampus](http://www.unil.ch/graduatecampus)