

## Mitteilungsblatt – Sondernummer der Paris Lodron-Universität Salzburg

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### 67. 9 PhD Positions at Doctoral College GIScience

A new long term GIScience doctoral school was awarded to the University of Salzburg under the prestigious and highly competitive '[DK](#)' framework of Austria's National Science Fund ([FWF](#)). The program titled "*Geographic Information Science. Integrating interdisciplinary concepts and methods*" will select an initial set of fully funded PhD candidates in May/June 2011. This DK establishes a formalized doctoral education and research training programme in GIScience at the University at Salzburg by integrating PhD students into focused research clusters. The DK seeks to leverage spatial concepts, to explore scientific, educational, and policy-related uses of Geographic Information in order to elucidate the complex relationships of individuals and society with GIS. It provides a framework for scientific studies of physical as well as social phenomena. Three interconnected, interdisciplinary research clusters are established.

**Representations and Data Models** is focused on research into the conceptual modelling of space, spatial features and phenomena, and provides a spatial view on various kinds of physical and abstract information objects in order to reveal the full potential of a 'spatial perspective'.

**Time and Process** research will leverage the increasing availability of real-time sensor data, the importance of process-oriented modelling, and addresses the need for temporal modelling beyond simple discrete time slices.

**Spatialization, Media and Society** considers user perspectives and utilizes Geographic Information communication as a hypotheses generator for geospatial research: cognitive processes lead to mental mappings which are highly relevant for personal action, which in turn modify physical and societal spaces. Concepts of spatial thinking and spatial theory are the linchpins of this innovative cross-cutting field of research.

The research clusters are logically linked, provide structure and direction for the research topics addressed, and define operational working groups for collaboration across PhD topics.

Salzburg is an acknowledged 'hotspot' for GIScience research and a well-known trademark combining university and non-university education and research. A flagship institution is the Centre for Geoinformatics at the University of Salzburg (Z\_GIS) which is dedicated to research and post-graduate GIScience education offering a successful MSc Program with 750+ graduates, has a basis of a strong alumni culture and is experienced in the initiation and successful management of research networks. The nine PIs are leading scholars in the fields of GIScience and Geoinformatics, lead PI is Prof. Dr. Thomas Blaschke who is also head of the Research Studio iSPACE, co-lead Prof. Dr. Strobl is Director of Z\_GIS and Director of the GIScience Institute of the Austrian

Academy of Sciences. These three organisations cooperate in the GIScience Research Cluster Salzburg with 80+ researchers in this field.

Supported by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), the program offers following **9 scholarships for doctoral researchers at the Paris Lodron University Salzburg** funded by the FWF ([www.fwf.ac.at](http://www.fwf.ac.at))

4 doctoral students in the area of **Representations and Data Models**

Specific requirements:

- Master's degree in Geoinformatics, Geomatics, Geography, Geosciences, Computer Science or any scientific/technical subject in a relevant field
- Excellent English skills

3 doctoral students in the area of **Time and Process**

Specific requirements:

- Master's degree in Geoinformatics, Geomatics, Geography, Geosciences, Computer Science or any scientific/technical subject in a relevant field
- Excellent English skills

2 doctoral students in the area of **Spatialization, Media and Society**

Specific requirements:

- Master's degree in Geoinformatics, Geomatics, Geography, Geosciences, Computer Science or any scientific/technical subject in a relevant field
- Excellent English skills

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