Research Associate in Social Science / Humanities

We are seeking an outstanding **Research Associate** to perform top-level research in an interdisciplinary project investigating the usage and potential impact of user-generated geographic content of the Web (e.g. volunteered geographic information, geosocial media contents) for improving our understanding of human-environment interactions. Particular methodological focus will be to bridge concepts of natural science and social science in interdisciplinary natural hazard analysis under consideration of existing and potential future user-generated geographic web content. Geographic focus will be put on countries of the southern hemisphere (mainly Chile).

The research project is funded by the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (HAW) and is jointly hosted by the **Institute of Geography** - GIScience Research Group (Jun.-Prof. Dr. Bernhard Höfle) and the **Max-Weber-Institute of Sociology** (Dr. Michael Hoelscher) at the Heidelberg University, Germany. Further information on the project NEOHAZ can be found here: http://www.geog.uni-heidelberg.de/gis/neohaz_en.html

The Research Associate will be responsible for designing empirical social field investigations and questionnaires, collection and analysis of empirical quantitative and qualitative data and subsequent statistical analysis of the datasets. It is expected that the candidate is able to organize and perform independent field work in the study area. The candidate will be working closely together with a scientist from Geoinformatics who concentrates on the analysis of digital geographic information layers. Furthermore, the research associate will contribute to the interdisciplinary scientific discussions and knowledge exchange within the HAW WIN-Kolleg.

The initial appointment will be for one year (with possible extension) and salary according to **TVL-13 with 50% work load**. Expected start of the position is **October 2014**. Main location of work is at the Heidelberg University, Germany.

Required Qualifications
- Master's degree or PhD in Sociology, Human/Social Geography, Governance, Psychology, or related area
- Demonstrated experience in techniques and methods of empirical social research
- Excellent English and Spanish skills (written and oral)
- Excellent organizational skills

Desired Qualifications
- Proven publication skills (e.g. in international peer-reviewed journals)
- Background of theoretical concepts and theories in perception of space and environment / hazard and risk research
- Willingness to learn the handling of geodata in Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Application
Applications shall be directed to Ms. Bettina Knorr (bettina.knorr@geog.uni-heidelberg.de, giscience.uni-hd.de) until **29 June 2014** in digital form (one PDF document!). The application shall include a detailed CV including grades, method expertise, letter of recommendation from a former supervisor/professor and list of publications. Furthermore, the application shall include a short motivation statement (max. one page).

The selection will be based on quality of the candidates. In case of equality of qualification and suitability of applicants, the applications made by female researchers will be given preferential consideration. Handicapped applicants will be treated preferentially if equally qualified.