Max Planck Institute for

the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity

**Post-Doctoral Fellowships**

**Urban Geography**

The Max Planck Institute in Göttingen, Germany, seeks to appoint three post-doctoral research fellows in Urban Geography, each for three years. The geographers will be employed to conduct research respectively in the following locations: New York (likely Astoria in Queens), Johannesburg (likely Hillbrow) and Singapore (likely Jurong West).

Under the directorship of Prof. Steven Vertovec, the post-docs will be part of a larger team (including three post-doc urban anthropologists or sociologists, two PhD students in Anthropology and Geography, two ethnographic film-makers, a data visualization specialist and a set of social science consultants) within the ‘Globaldivercities’ project funded by the European Research Council. The project’s core question is: ***In public spaces compared across cities, what accounts for similarities and differences in social and spatial patterns that arise under conditions of diversification, when old diversity (referring to earlier waves of migrants) meets new diversity (referring to new, super-diverse migrants)?***

Further details of the project can be found at [www.mmg.mpg.de](http://www.mmg.mpg.de) or through enquiries to the Secretary of the Department for Socio-Cultural Diversity, Jutta Esser ([esser@mmg.mpg.de](mailto:esser@mmg.mpg.de)).

Working closely with a post-doc Anthropologist/Sociologist in the same locality, methods will include:

* archival and statistical research;
* in-depth interviews, transect walks and focus groups with key informants and experts;
* substantial use of photography and video in all aspects of research. Images taken in neighbourhoods and key public spaces will be georeferenced through use of digital cameras fitted with global positioning system (GPS) adapters;
* innovative mapping, including the use of socio-economic and demographic data visualized in graphic form and integrated into GIS maps and ‘geoweb’ tools (such as Google Maps and TerrainView-Globe; this will be undertaken in cooperation with the project’s data visualization specialist based in Göttingen;
* linguistic landscaping, that is, geographically representing the visibility and distribution of languages (or, indeed, the absence of certain languages) in a given space;
* together with the entire team, developing overlay methods for combining material concerning mental maps, behavioural maps, physical maps, visual images (and the notes surrounding them), data visualizations and ethnographic observations.

Post-docs will undertake two months of project training in Germany before residing in the respective project city for the duration of the project, will undertake site visits to all Globaldivercities project sites, and will participate in a final international conference in Germany. Prof. Vertovec will manage the project through site visits, team meetings in various locations and video-conferences. The entire team will have input towards film-making, and all project members will be encouraged and supported to develop their own publications as well as to contribute to collective publications.

Applicants should hold a PhD in Geography and have a track record of research (and ideally publication) regarding urban contexts. In addition to English, language competence in a relevant language (i.e., likely to be spoken among some immigrants in the given location) will be an advantage, as will knowledge and experience of one of the project cities. Annual salary range €37,122-€41,175 (US$49,950-US$55,404).

The Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity is a constituent institute of the Max Planck Society ([www.mpg.de/en](http://www.mpg.de/en)), Germany’s premier research organization. Although funded primarily by federal and state governments, the Max Planck Society is wholly independent. Committed to equal opportunities, it particularly welcomes applications from women, ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities.

Applicants should send a cover letter, CV and names & contact details for three referees to Jutta Esser ([esser@mmg.mpg.de](mailto:esser@mmg.mpg.de)) by **25 February 2011**.