

IPE JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP 2019

About IPE

Institute for Political Ecology (IPE) is a research and educational organisation that designs alternative development models and innovative institutional frameworks for democratic political and economic transformation of society. The Institute addresses contemporary ecological changes as social phenomena that reduce or magnify social inequalities and influence power relations. IPE carries out transdisciplinary research and educational programmes in cooperation with domestic and international institutions and organisations. Based on these, IPE provides expert analyses and a discussion platform for social movements and political and economic actors in Croatia and abroad that advocate ecologically sustainable, just and democratic society.

Fellowship programme

This junior fellowship programme aims to support research and advocacy work of young scholars who have demonstrated exceptional motivation to tackle key social, political and environmental challenges of the 21st century. The primary output of the fellowship will be a draft policy paper of publishing standard or a draft academic article (possibly in co-authorship with senior researchers associated with IPE). The fellowship is open to all academic disciplines, but research undertaken by the selected candidate should be related to the Institute's priority research topic in 2019: ***"SUPER DONUT: Sustainability on the periphery – distilling numbers for tomorrow"***. Therefore, we particularly aim for applicants with a background in (ecological and heterodox) economics, (critical) development studies, political ecology and similar fields.

The aim of our project is to improve the understanding of the social context in which environmental degradation occurs, by combining various indicators from currently disparate societal-biophysical analyses, that could then also be used to guide the socio-ecological transition envisioned in degrowth scholarship. There is currently a lack of coherent and innovative localised strategies addressing the challenges of a rapid and thoroughgoing socio-economic transformation imposed by biophysical and social constraints of this century. Recognising quantitative metrics as the most influential and broadly comprehensible tool for managing systemic change, the project expands the existing instrumental framework with alternative metrics of development and sustainability. Since conventional metrics assume uncontested perceptions and representations of sustainability, the intellectual and empirical challenge is to evaluate the transformational potential of human societies using the metrics that better reflect the flows, stocks and constraints upon which the self-reproduction and evolution of their biophysical structures is built. By re-evaluating old metrics and exploring new ones from the post-growth and degrowth perspectives, researchers on our team aim to achieve novel perceptions and representations of sustainability issues. Special attention will be given to applications that consider or encompass localised interpretations of degrowth or postgrowth perspectives, development of local strategies or conditions for implementing a specific concept or idea rooted in the post-growth or degrowth debate.

We invite young researchers interested in working on the critical assessment of dominant quantitative models that inform strategies of sustainability transition to join our interdisciplinary and international team and help with sourcing, selecting and presenting indicators of socio-metabolic transformation. Based on their work on the project, the selected candidate will undertake their own research project, which is expected to lead to a publication. The fellow will cooperate closely with the Research Director and is also expected to contribute to other ongoing research activities and public events organised by the Institute. The selected candidate will also participate in networking, dissemination and educational programmes integral to IPE's operations in 2019.

Conditions

The IPE junior research fellowship is a full-time, 6 months long paid fellowship. Depending on specific activities, fellows will work either from the IPE office in Zagreb or temporarily from other locations conditional on agreement with the Research Director and the Executive Director of IPE. The fellowship can start at your earliest convenience, but no later than the 1st of April 2019.

The fellow will receive a stipend of EUR 800 net per month (in HRK equivalent) to cover accommodation, living expenses, travel, health insurance and other costs related to their stay in Zagreb. In addition, IPE will provide the fellow with office space and in-house research and administrative facilities. Halfway through their fellowship, the fellow will present their research project to the IPE team and should expect an evaluation of their outputs and cooperation with the IPE team by the Academic Council of IPE.

Eligibility

As a minimum set of requirements, the candidates are expected to have:

- a Master's level degree (or equivalent) in any academic discipline,
- an active competence in English,
- quantitative skills and a basic command of international databases.

In addition, an inclusive and historical understanding of sustainability and development is expected. An ability to frame these in the specific fields of materialist, commons-based and/or world-ecology approaches within political ecology will be considered a benefit.

Application

To apply for the fellowship, candidates are invited to prepare a research proposal on a topic to which they would like to devote their fellowship time in accordance to the above described Fellowship programme. Candidates are encouraged to develop their autonomous research proposals in line with the research objectives set out in this call and should not expect content instructions from IPE staff and associates in the application phase. The submitted proposals will be used to judge the skills of the applicants to think logically, to structure and present their thoughts in a written format. The selected candidate will receive full support of the IPE staff to elaborate the research topic and/or structure in order to ensure the alignment of the fellow's work with the IPE's 2019 research objectives.



An application must include:

- a project proposal in English (1 page, font 12),
- a curriculum vitae in English, including a list of publications (academic and/or those demonstrating social engagement),
- two letters of recommendation (minimum one academic),
- voice contact details (telephone, Skype) for interview, and
- preferred date of starting the fellowship.

Applications must be submitted by **10th of January 2019** via email, to fellowship@ipe.hr, marked by the candidate's name and phrase "FINAL APPLICATION" in the subject line. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Administrative inquiries are open until the 21th of December via fellowship@ipe.hr, after which no further questions will be accepted. After the application deadline expires, all applicants will be informed about the receipt of their applications. The shortlisted applicants will be notified by the 20th of January 2019. Interviews will be held between the 24th and 30th of January 2019. The finalist will be selected by IPE's team and representatives from the Academic Council. IPE reserves the right to make the decision at its sole discretion.