JOB TITLE: GEOG3 - Mapping Global Informal Plastic Waste Recovery

DEPARTMENT NAME: Geography

CONTACT NAME: Jutta Gutberlet

JOB DESCRIPTION:

The student will help build a global data set on informal waste recovery. The data will substantiate the arguments that organized informal waste pickers contribute to the recovery of plastic waste and have the potential to further expand their contribution to reduce plastic waste leakage into the environment and the oceans. Waste pickers are informal recyclers who collect reusable and recyclable materials to sell or for personal consumption. They organize into associations, cooperatives or other forms of community-based, collective organizations. While contributing to recycling and thus to the circular economy, waste pickers also play a significant role reducing overall environmental impacts as well as carbon footprints of cities, while recovering resources. The data set to be built will include information on numbers of waste pickers per country, amounts of waste, particularly plastic waste, recovered by their activity, gender aspects of waste pickers, other social and economic indicators, and policies that support or hinder the work of organized waste pickers.

The student will conduct a literature search using academic search engines through the UVic’s library and will extract information from online databases (World Bank, ISWA, UN databases, etc.), on informal waste pickers and their work. The secondary sources, data and information (including film, reports, conference releases, etc.), identified on the topic will be organized by the student into an Excel worksheet, facilitating the analysis and data use. Guided by faculty the student will finally write-up the findings in form of a brief literature review on the topic, based on the literature and data findings. This is a singular opportunity for a student to become acquainted with international research. The student will be working out of the Community-based research lab, which will provide opportunities for interaction, sharing and collaboration with other students and researchers. The work study will provide the student with the possibility of building academic research strengths.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Academic writing skills, bibliographic research skills (using academic search engines), basic computer skills (Internet Navigation, Spreadsheets, Adobe) and database management. Interest in International Development Geography. Language skills are an additional asset.

JOB LOCATION ON-CAMPUS: On-Campus: Community-based Research Laboratory in the Department of Geography

WORK STUDY WAGE: $14.50/hour (including 4% vacation pay)

HOURS AVAILABLE: 150 hrs. total

HOW TO APPLY: Electronically forward a cover letter and resume to the attention of Dr. Gutberlet at: gutber@uvic.ca

Applicants must be eligible for Work Study Program
For details go to: http://www.uvic.ca/registrar/safa/work-study/index.php