The Vienna Doctoral School of Social Sciences promotes innovative, excellent, problem-oriented research that aspires to contribute to societal debates and address key global challenges. The cohorts trained and supported by the ViDSS are part of the vibrant research environment at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Vienna. The ViDSS aims for the highest standards in doctoral training and close supervision to ensure a mastery of social scientific debates and relevant theories and methods.

The following doctoral position(s) are announced by the ViDSS or the departments supporting the ViDSS:

**Project Staff at the Department of Development Studies under the supervision of Cornelia Staritz**

The successful candidate will mainly work in the research area of development economics and specifically in the research project "Decent Work and GVC-based Industrialization in Ethiopia" (EthApparel), financed by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). The project focuses on Ethiopia as the newest sourcing location for global apparel buyers. As part of a broader shift to export orientation in recent years, the Ethiopian government has identified the apparel industry as a priority sector and pursued strategic industrial policies with the aim to ensure broader development benefits from apparel exports. However, given increased concentration among apparel buyers (global fashion brands and retailers) and excess-manufacturing capacity among apparel supplier countries and firms, the conditions for new entrants into the apparel global value chain (GVC) have gradually deteriorated since the 1980s. This has been labelled as the supplier squeeze, which has reduced the scope for wealth capture among supplier firms and countries and put pressure on supplier firms and particularly workers, leading to low wages and very problematic working conditions. In this context, EthApparel asks whether Ethiopia’s integration in the apparel GVC can drive industrialization that is sustainable both from the perspective of supplier firms and workers. The methodology builds on a mixed methods approach that includes surveys with supplier firms and workers, trade data analysis, semi-structured interviews with buyers, worker collective organizations and government authorities, content analysis of corporate documents and industrial and labour regulations in Ethiopia, as well as labour ethnography. EthApparel consists of an international research team that includes members from the University of Vienna, Roskilde University, London School of Economics and Mekele University.

**Job description:** The successful candidate will mainly conduct research on the ‘Supplier Squeeze Analysis’ in the apparel GVC with a focus on the interaction of global buyers and supplier firms and workers in Ethiopia, underlying sourcing practices and related distributional outcomes for the involved firms and workers. The tasks spread from conducting secondary research (literature review) and content analysis of apparel industry publications and firm documents, to carrying out a supplier firm survey and semi-structured interviews with apparel buyers, supplier firms and workers. The research includes field trips to Ethiopia. The successful candidate will co-author publications on the results of the project in peer-reviewed journals and present at national and international conferences and workshops. This position also includes the writing of a dissertation on a topic related to the research project under the supervision of Cornelia Staritz and occasional support of other research activities of Cornelia Staritz as well as of department activities.

**More information**

**Duration of employment:** 3 years  
**Extent of Employment:** 20 hours/week  
**Job grading in accordance with collective bargaining agreement:** §48 VwGr. B1 Grundstufe (praedoc) with relevant work experience determining the assignment to a particular salary grade.

The candidate who is selected for this position joins the ViDSS as a student member. Applications are to be submitted through the Job Center of the University of Vienna (reference number: 12209), no later than 19.09.2021.