

Post-doctoral researcher position Kyoto University, Japan

Strategies to promote sustainable use of consumer plastic towards a circular economy in Japan and other leading countries

Deadline: July 30th, 2024

Vacancies: Post-doctoral Researcher: 1 position (applications will be closed as soon as a suitable candidate is found)

Location: Trencher Lab, Graduate School of Global Studies, Kyoto University (Yoshida Main Campus, Sakyo-ku, Yoshida Honmachi, Kyoto City, Kyoto Prefecture)

* If the university allows or orders you to work from home, you can do so from home, etc.

Term: 1 year with chance of renewal each year, based on performance, until end of FY2027.

* The decision to renew the contract will be based on factors such as the workload at the time of the contract expiration, work performance, attitude, ability, progress of the tasks being undertaken, business conditions, and the status of the external funding being received for the employment.

Start date: October 1st, 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter. (Trial period: 6 months)

Job Description:

Our lab at the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Kyoto University, has a job opening for a post-doctoral researcher to conduct research on from a policy, societal and innovation-system perspective on efforts to promote plastic resource circulation from consumer and industrial applications in Japan, and other countries, and strategies to realise a circular economy. The postdoctoral researcher will work on a project supported by the "Cross-Ministerial Strategic Innovation Promotion Program (SIP), the 3rd period of SIP "Circular economy system", under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Gregory Trencher and Asst. Prof. Yuta Ando.

Government, industry and academia in Japan are currently working to phase-out the linear use of consumer plastic products. Efforts are currently centred on developing recycling technologies and digital platform to promote plastic recycling, identifying relevant consumer behaviours, and designing policies, institutions, business models and societal systems to accelerate the transition to a circular economy. Our team conducts social science research and empirical experiments to promote consumer behavior change and market transition, aiming to facilitate the collection of waste plastics and expand the demand for recycled plastics. The research for this postdoctoral position aims to compare market and societal conditions in Japan to other countries of high instructive value, especially in Europe, and to analyse system characteristics, barriers and drivers from a policy and innovations perspective with a common analytical framework and approach.

All applicants will be expected to have the following skills and experience:

- Circular economy and relevant concepts such as resource circulation
- Environmental policy, innovation systems
- Relevant theoretical frameworks from social sciences (e.g. technological innovation systems, socio-technical lock-in, systemic barriers) and methods
- Demonstrated experience with mixed methods using both qualitative and quantitative data
- Excellent command of English (spoken and written)

In addition, preference will be given to candidates who meet one or more of the following conditions:

- Proficiency in Japanese (especially oral communication)
- Ability to analyze policies and socio-technical systems
- Expertise in circular economy system or plastics
- Publication of several international papers as the first author, in reputed international journals, in the above fields.

Qualifications:

At the time of application, candidates should hold a doctoral degree or equivalent capability, or be scheduled to obtain one well before the start date.

Salary:

4.2 million yen gross per year (depending on experience). Modest support will be provided for set-up and research.

Allowances: None

Social Insurance:

Enrollment in the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Mutual Aid Association, Employees' Pension, Employment Insurance, and Workers' Compensation Insurance

Work Schedule:

Discretionary labor system for professional work (equivalent to 38 hours and 45 minutes per week, equivalent to 7 hours and 45 minutes per day).

If the Discretionary labor system for professional work is not applied, work will be 5 days per week from 8:30 to 17:15 (break 12:00 to 13:00). Overtime may be ordered.

Holidays: Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, year-end and New Year holidays, and the anniversary of the establishment (June 18).

Application documents:

1. Cover letter
2. CV
3. An outline of your research interests and proposed research plan (around 3-4 pages)
4. Copies of your peer-reviewed publications
5. Letter(s) of recommendation (up to 2)

After the initial screening of documents, we will conduct interviews (online is acceptable) for further selection.

Inquiries and submission of your application:

Assoc. Prof. Gregory Trencher, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Kyoto University

E-mail: trencher.gregory.2s@kyoto-u.ac.jp

Web: <https://www.gregorytrencher.net>

Notes:

- Submitted documents will be used only for the recruitment screening process. They will not be disclosed, transferred, or lent to third parties without a valid reason.
- Kyoto University promotes gender equality. We actively welcome applications from female researchers.
- Kyoto University takes measures to prevent passive smoking, such as prohibiting smoking indoors on all campuses and outdoors, except in designated smoking areas.