

Bern, 22. November 2023

Ausschreibung einer Promotionsstelle (100%, 4 Jahre)  
Doctoral position (100%, 4 years)

The Institute for the Science of Religion, University of Bern  
seeks a doctoral researcher for the project

## **Vegetarianism, Veganism and Religion: Ancient Origins and Contemporary Features of an Ethical Worldview**

funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), April 2024–March 2028.

The overall project will analyze the relationship between vegetarianism, veganism, and religion in two subprojects: (1) The Sentient Souls of Animals: A Systematic Comparison of the Ancient Indian and Greek Origins of Vegetarianism/s (doctoral project); and (2) Vegans and Vegetarians in Contemporary Switzerland: Climate Responsibility, Animal Welfare, and Meatfree Utopia (PostDoc).

For **subproject (1)**, we are looking for a doctoral researcher interested in the religious and philosophical origins of vegetarianism in Antiquity in terms of global interconnected history, dealing with Ancient Greek and Indian views on non-violence, animal ethics, and finally with ideas of karma and rebirth.

While both subprojects follow specific cognitive interests, the overall project aims to explore on a systematic level how vegetarianism/s can be better defined as “ethical worldviews,” taking shape less as a religious identity but as an individual spirituality.

### Project goals

- Research in cooperation with the postdoctoral researcher and the Principle Investigator at the Institute for the Science of Religion
- Completing a PhD dissertation (Science of Religion)
- Organizing workshops, guest lectures, and participation in other project-related activities

### Your profile

- Master in Classics (Greek Philology), Philosophy of Antiquity, Indology, or Religious Studies/Religionswissenschaft
- Willingness to learn Ancient Language/s (Greek and/or Sanskrit)

### We offer

- PhD position 100% for four years (SNSF)
- A supportive and multidisciplinary environment at the Institute and the University of Bern

Please send your dossier (cover letter, CV, and a reference letter) by 22 December 2023 as a pdf to [jens.schlieter@unibe.ch](mailto:jens.schlieter@unibe.ch). Inquiries welcome / Nachfragen willkommen.