We are looking for a PhD student to develop their own research agenda within the SNFS-funded Ambizione Project «The neighborhood in the cloud». In this project, we investigate neighborhood effects and how location-based on- and offline networks shape individual life chances in education, the labor market as well as political and social participation. To this end, the project collects unique geocoded longitudinal data that allow for the construction of bespoke neighborhoods. Moreover, the survey data are combined with web scraped data from participants and online communities. In the project, we apply cutting-edge methodologies and designs, such as survey experiments, spatial econometrics, and big data approaches, to substantial research questions on social, economic, and spatial inequalities. The starting date of this full-time position is 01.02.2022 or no later than 01.08.2022.

Tasks and responsibilities
Together with the PI, you will implement a longitudinal survey to assess how socio-spatial contexts and networks shape educational and labor market outcomes as well as social and political participation in Switzerland. You will make important contributions to the project as a whole, but you will also pursue your own interests and develop your skills.

The PhD position offers the opportunity to complete a (cumulative) doctoral thesis with a focus on social and spatial inequalities, advanced methodological designs, or big data. To this end, you will develop your own research agenda within the project, advance your research skills through targeted programs (e.g., Summer Schools), present innovative research on international conferences, and (co-)author studies based on data from the project.

What you bring along
• A completed Master's degree in sociology, political sciences, economics, statistics, computer sciences or a related discipline (or proof of completion no later than 01.08.2022)
• A strong interest in questions regarding social inequalities and the modeling of contextual effects on individual outcomes
• Interests in computational social sciences, survey methodology, and big data
• Proficiency in quantitative methods for the analysis of individual behavior and decision making, preferably within longitudinal frameworks
• Programming skills - preferably in R, Python, or Stata - or an interest to acquire them
• Solid language proficiency in English; either German, French or Italian is a plus
What we offer

• A unique opportunity to apply and broaden your skills and interests in a stimulating & innovative scientific environment
• A dynamic research team drawing on excellent scientific networks in its field both nationally and internationally
• High-quality PhD support and supervision
• Ample opportunities for professional and personal development, especially regarding methodological & programming skills
• State-of-the-art workplace infrastructure
• Competitive salary and social benefits according to SNFS regulations (CHF 47,000 to 50,000 p.a.)

Interested?
To apply, please send your motivation letter, CV, diploma(s) & academic record as well as a short summary of your Master’s thesis in a single PDF to:
Dr. Christoph Zangger (christoph.zangger@unibe.ch)

Application deadline: 09 January 2022