3-years postdoctoral position in Plant Genetics
Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research, Cologne Germany.
In the group of Raphael Mercier, Department of Chromosome Biology.

Working environment
The institute is a major site in Europe committed to basic research in plant science. The working language is English. The novel department of Chromosome Biology will enter into full force in August 2019, with a focus on the study of meiosis and recombination, their mechanisms and consequences. The institute benefits from an excellent infrastructure including large plant growth facilities, in-house sequencing and computational facilities, confocal and super-resolution microscopes. The project associates the team of Raphael Mercier, which focuses on molecular mechanisms of meiosis, and the team of Korbinian Schneeberger, with a strong expertise in computational genetics.

Project Description
Meiotic recombination shapes genetic diversity and is critical to evolution. Yet, very little is known on how recombination varies in the wild and how this variation is controlled. The development of ever more powerful sequencing technologies and computational methods offers novel opportunities to study and understand the variation of recombination rates. The work will include genetic experiments and the establishment of computational methods to study the natural diversity of recombination in Arabidopsis.

Qualifications
We are seeking highly motivated candidates with a PhD degree in biology, preferably with a specialization in plant (quantitative) genetics, breeding and/or genomics. Prior experience in genetics and high-throughput data analysis is required. Experiences in scientific coding (e.g. using perl or python) would be a plus. Good oral and writing skills in English are essential. The successful candidate is expected to have both critical and creative thinking skills.

The salary will be according to German civil service conditions (TVöD Bund) and includes social security benefits. The Max-Planck Society is committed to increasing the number of individuals with disabilities in its workforce and therefore encourages applications from such qualified individuals. Furthermore, the Max Planck Society seeks to increase the number of women in those areas where they are underrepresented and therefore explicitly encourages women to apply.

Candidates should send their curriculum vitae including a full list of publications, names of two referees and a motivation letter to: application-mercier@mpipz.mpg.de . Assessment of applications will begin on 15th of May 2019, candidates are thus advised to apply by this date.