Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona | DemoSoc

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Postdoctoral Researcher (full time) in the Sociodemography Research Group (DEMOSOC), Department of Political and Social Sciences, Pompeu Fabra University

Job description

The postdoctoral researcher will work on the Human-Mosquito Interaction Project (H-MIP) funded by the European Research Council. The researcher will work on sampling and analysis of data on human-mosquito biting networks. This will include design and implementation of strategies for recruiting and interviewing human research subjects and citizen scientists using digital communications tools, communicating all aspects of the project to participants and to the general public, with a particular focus on recruiting participants for DNA-based research aimed at illuminating human-mosquito network characteristics, and analysis of data. We are looking for a researcher with a strong background in both molecular biology and digital communication.

The position is initially for 1 year starting 1 January 2020, but it may be extended for longer depending on project needs. The annual salary range is 21.856 to 33,120.88 euros.

Qualifications

We are looking for candidates with:

- Ph.D. in natural sciences;
- Training and experience in digital communication;
- Experience in research on molecular biology and disease vector mosquitoes;
- Experience with planning and carrying out research;
- Strong abilities in quantitative analysis and experience with R, Python and/or Julia.
- Interest in human-mosquito interaction and the social aspects of mosquito-borne disease;
- Ability to work as part of a large research team;
- Excellent academic writing skills and fluency in written and spoken Catalan, Spanish, and English;
- A great curiosity and enthusiasm for scientific research.

Procedure

Send a cover letter and CV to Dr. John Palmer by email at john.palmer@upf.edu by 15 November 2020.

Project Summary

The Human-Mosquito Interaction Project uses mobile phone positioning, DNA analysis of mosquito blood-meals, and citizen science, combined with traditional socio-demographic methods to trace the host-vector biting networks through which mosquito-borne diseases flow and illuminate the behavioural, socio-demographic, and environmental mechanisms that shape these networks. The results will make it possible to improve dynamic models of mosquito-borne disease and recommend targeted policy interventions for reducing disease risk in Europe and around the world. In doing this, the project addresses the critical need for greater social science perspective in mosquito-borne disease research, making it possible to better understand the socio-ecological context of a set of diseases that place enormous burdens on society and exacerbate social inequality. The project relies on an interdisciplinary team of researchers with expertise in socio-demography, ecology, entomology, molecular biology, network science, epidemiology, and related fields. More information can be found at https://h-mip.com/.