

One Fully-Funded PhD Researcher Vacancy (for 4 years) in the UNEQUAL Project, at the Sociodemography Research Group, Pompeu Fabra University

The [Sociodemography Research Group](https://www.upf.edu/web/demosoc) seeks doctoral applications from talented students with a strong interest in research. We offer a 4-year predoctoral fellowship to develop a doctoral research as part of the team of the research project “Socio-economic inequalities in family behaviour and wellbeing: the role of economic security, role compatibility and gender relations (UNEQUAL)” headed by Prof. Pau Baizán and Clara Cortina, and funded by the Spanish Research Agency (PID2020-117980GB-I00). The doctoral research should focus on the empirical investigation of a specific topic related to the links between socio-economic inequalities and family processes (including fertility, partnership formation and dissolution, and children’s wellbeing and education), to be agreed with the project team.

The successful applicant will join the [PhD Program in Political and Social Sciences](#) of the Department of Political and Social Sciences, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona. The PhD researcher will get the opportunity to participate in the Department’s training program for PhD students and will draw up a personal training and supervision plan. He/she will be supervised by one of the members of the project. The PhD will write a dissertation based on a set of research articles publishable in international refereed journals.

Duration of the fellowship : Four years.

Starting date: Summer 2022.

Qualifications

We are looking for a candidate with:

- * a Master degree in sociology, demography, human geography, economics, or another relevant social science, to be completed before September 2022;
- * excellent study results and CV;

- * excellent quantitative research skills and proven experience in multivariate statistical analyses of large survey or register data sets;
- * good writing skills and fluency in written and spoken English; experience in academic writing in English;
- * a keen interest in undertaking research in family dynamics and social inequalities.
- * a great curiosity and enthusiasm for scientific research.

Application Process

We ask you to submit:

- a motivation letter, including your preliminary ideas about your intended topic of research (see below about the UNEQUAL project).
- a detailed CV including a list of academic output, and the study results of your master and Bachelor programs.
- a written sample of your work, such as M.A thesis.
- names and contact details of two referees.

Documents should be sent to the principal investigators of the project Unequal: Dr. Pau Baizan (pau.baizan@upf.edu) and Dr. Clara Cortina (clara.cortina@upf.edu) before **November 15th, 2021**.

Candidates who are shortlisted may be asked to attend an interview (by Zoom)

Simultaneously we also ask you to submit an application to the call for PhD scholarships of the Spanish Research Agency (Agencia Estatal de Investigación, AEI). Once the AEI has received all the applications, the principal investigators of the project will communicate to the AEI our decision about the selected candidate. This call is expected to be open in early November 2021. More details here: <http://www.aei.gob.es/>

Project description

The PhD researcher will work in the project *Socio-economic inequalities in family behaviour and wellbeing: the role of economic security, role compatibility and gender relations* (UNEQUAL), led by Clara Cortina and Pau Baizan, and funded by the Spanish Research Agency.

Project summary:

The main goal of the project is to investigate the links between socio-economic inequalities and family processes, including fertility, partnership formation and dissolution, and children's wellbeing and education. This project addresses these links by developing a novel theoretical framework, in which both social class and educational

level are key concepts, and by systematically testing several hypotheses in different societies. We shall investigate two general hypotheses:

- 1) the impact of the socio-economic status on family processes is mediated by three mechanisms: the level of economic security and resources available to each social group; the employment–parenthood role compatibility; and the level of gender (in)equality existing in both the labour market and households.
- 2) the strength of the relationship between socio-economic positions and family outcomes depends on the gender and welfare regimes existing in each society.

To investigate these questions, we will use life course data from several surveys, including the Generations and Gender Programme, the German Socio-Economic Panel, and the Spanish Fertility Survey 2018. Advanced statistical techniques will be used, in particular, event history analysis, multi-level analysis, and simultaneous equations. Our investigation will advance our understanding of both, the heterogeneity of family dynamics, and the society levels of each family process. It will contribute to explain the reversals in the socio-economic profile of demographic behaviour and children's outcomes observed during recent decades. The project will also contribute to our understanding of the effects of policies in such areas as the labour market, income redistribution, family wellbeing and gender relations.

Sociodemography Research Group

The **Department of Political and Social Sciences (DCPIS)**, and more specifically the **Sociology and Demography research group (DEMOSOC)**, offers a stimulating environment for research. On one side, the DEMOSOC is an interdisciplinary research group specialized in demographic and sociological analysis, as well as labour market and criminology studies. The group is oriented towards quantitative and comparative research across populations. On the other side, the DCPIS comprises currently 34 permanent professors and 56 PhD students, actively researching on a wide variety of social science topics. It stands out for its strong international focus, its dynamic research, the cross-disciplinary nature of its teaching, the quality of its graduate programme and its support for student mobility. The DCPIS belongs to [Pompeu Fabra University](#) (UPF), a leading Spanish University, recently recognized as [International Campus of Excellence](#) (CEI), the [1st Spanish university](#) in the Times Higher Education Indicator and 186th in the world ranking (THE Ranking, 2011), [and leader in Spain for the quality of its scientific production](#) (CyD report 2011).