

## PhD Candidate Research Scholarships (up to 4 years, full time) in the Sociodemography Research Group (DEMOSOC), Department of Political and Social Sciences, Pompeu Fabra University

### Job description

The PhD candidate researcher will work on the Human-Mosquito Interaction Project (H-MIP) funded by the European Research Council. The researcher will write a dissertation based on a set of research articles related to the project, publishable in international refereed journals. Possible topics include socio-ecology, citizen science, networks, and the socio-economic and behavioral determinants of human-mosquito interactions. The researcher will be co-supervised by Dr. John Palmer at Pompeu Fabra University (UPF) and Dr. Frederic Bartumeus at the Centre for Advanced Studies of Blanes (CEAB-CSIC). The researcher will need to apply to be admitted into UPF's PhD program in Political and Social Sciences, and should be ready to start the program in the fall of 2020. The researcher will be a member of the Sociodemography Research Group and will have the opportunity to participate in the Department's training program for PhD students, including drawing up a personal training and supervision plan.

### Qualifications

We are looking for candidates with:

- master's degree in social sciences or natural sciences;
- background and interest in socio-demography, ecology, entomology, network science, epidemiology, and/or related fields;
- solid skills in statistics;
- ability to work in R, Python, and/or Julia;
- excellent writing skills and fluency in written and spoken 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](mailto:john.palmer@upf.edu). Applications will be considered on a rolling basis in order to fill one or more positions.

In addition to applying for this position, the candidate must also apply and be accepted into UPF's PhD program in Political and Social Sciences, and be prepared to start the program in the fall of 2020. Procedures and deadlines for applying to the PhD program can be found at:

<https://www.upf.edu/en/web/doctorats/ciencias-politiques-i-socials>

## 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.