

Date of publication of the job offer: February, 2018

Research Assistant (part-time) for TRANSGANG project

Job description

We are seeking a research assistant to support the fieldwork in Barcelona of the European Research Council funded project called “Transnational Gangs as Agents of Mediation: Experiences of Conflict Resolution in Street Youth Organizations in Southern Europe, North Africa and the Americas” (TRANSGANG). The specific activities to be carried out will be: organization of the project files, fieldwork, transcription of interviews, support to the data interpretation, organization of mediation courses and elaboration of the gangpedia.

Project information:

TRANSGANG aims to develop a renewed model for the analysis of transnational youth gangs in the global age, in dialogue with two classics of urban ethnography, published nearly a century ago: *The Gang*, by F.M. Thrasher (1926) and *The Polish Peasant in Europe and America*, by W. I. Thomas and F. Znaniecki (1918-1920). To do this, the project will start by a systematic review of the historical literature on youth gangs, which will try to overcome the north-american-centrism, dominant in contemporary criminology. The central phase of the research will focus on a multisited and multilevel ethnography that will explore experiences in which gangs have acted as agents of mediation, as well as the barriers that have blocked these attempts. The project will compare street youth organizations from two transnational communities -Latinos and Arabs-, both in their homelands and in their new European neighborhoods. Starting with three case studies of “good practices” in Barcelona, Medellin and Casablanca, which will be studied in depth, contrasts with other cases in which other policies have been implemented will be established: Madrid, Marseille and Milan in southern Europe; Oran, Tunis and Cairo in north Africa; Chicago, Santiago de Cuba and San Salvador in the Americas. Using an experimental approach based on the “extended case method”, it will have as its theme the making of a film that collects the experience of members or former members of gangs who have participated in mediation experiences. The ultimate goal is to develop a renewed transnational, inter-generational, intergeneric and transmedia approach to Twenty-First-century gangs, very different from the local, coeval, male and face-to-face model used for understanding gangs in the Twentieth century. Although the focus of the project is theoretical, its purpose is applied: to deduce more effective ways of intervention to prevent the hegemony of the criminal gang model that appears as dominant in the neoliberal era.

The successful candidate will be involved in the implementation of the project and communication outreach.

Information about ERC-Advanced Grants:

<https://erc.europa.eu/funding/advanced-grants>

Information about the project:

<https://www.upf.edu/web/transgang>

Project and Institution that finance the contract

The work is supported by ERC Advanced Grant -TRANS GANG

Official number reference

742705 TRANS GANG

Information on the minimum requirements

- High School or equivalent;
- Oral and written communication skills;
- Training in mediation;
- Knowledge about gangs.

Benefits of the opening

The candidate will receive a UPF part time contract of 20hs from 1st April 2019 until 31th December 2022.

Information on the application process

Interested candidates are encouraged to apply, sending a Letter of interest and a CV to:
transgang@upf.edu

Deadline to submit applications: 8th March, 2019

Contact transgang@upf.edu