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postdoctoral position on economic decision-making in subsistence societies

The Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology unites scientists in the natural sciences and humanities to investigate the history of humankind from an interdisciplinary perspective, with the help of comparative analyses of genes, cultures, cognitive abilities, languages and social systems of past and present human populations as well as those of primates closely related to human beings.

The Department of Human Behavior, Ecology, and Culture at the Max Planck Institute in Leipzig is seeking qualified applicants for a postdoctoral project on subsistence strategies and economic behavior among horticulturalists in Central and South America. The contract period is for 2 years, and the appointment is based in Leipzig.

The successful candidate will help develop an empirical research program based on theoretical models for strategies of food production, labor allocation, market engagement, and the subsequent flow of resources within social networks. An additional aim is to apply those models to existing archives of data from Latin American field sites, and work with department researchers to design subsequent analysis projects making use of open science practices. Topical foci may include time allocation modeling, the energetics of labor, food transfers within social networks, the accumulation of wealth and inequality, indigenous knowledge transmission, and the social learning of production strategies.

Requirements

Essential

- Ph.D. in a relevant science at the start of position
- experience working with quantitative data in a research computing context

Desirable

- knowledge of relevant ecological, evolutionary and anthropological theory
- experience in Latin America
- willingness to participate in open science practices, e.g. use of open access journals, preregistration, and sharing materials and data

Funding

Department postdoctoral researchers are funded by the Institute, and allocate their time between individual research projects and collaborative departmental work. Salaries are determined according to the German public service pay scale (TVöD).

Applications

Please address questions and completed applications electronically to Dr. Bret Beheim (bret_beheim@eva.mpg.de). Applications should include:

1. letter describing research background and goals
2. curriculum vitae, including the names of three professional references
3. reprint of a representative peer-reviewed academic manuscript

Applications received by 20 April 2018 will be considered. Doctoral students finishing in 2018 are encouraged to apply.

The Max Planck Society is committed to equal opportunities and to employing individuals with disabilities and explicitly encourages them to apply. Additionally, the Max Planck Society wishes to increase the proportion of women in areas in which they are underrepresented; women are therefore explicitly encouraged to apply.