



Zurich, 10 June 2021

Open PhD-Position in *Anthropometry and (Historical) Epidemiology* (funded by www.snf.ch):

Spatial and other determinants of neonatal health reflecting maternal living standards in Lausanne, 1905-1925

The position is affiliated in two institutes:

a) The **Institute of Evolutionary Medicine** (IEM, www.iem.uzh.ch) is a leading international and globally connected interdisciplinary research, teaching and service institute which is part of the medical faculty at the University of Zurich. Researchers at the IEM analyse historical and modern biomedical data to better understand modern human health issues and diseases.

b) The **Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Prevention Institute** (EBPI, www.ebpi.uzh.ch) improves, implements, and teaches best practice research methods in epidemiology, biostatistics and related areas, providing evidence and context for informed health decisions.

Your responsibilities:

The position is part of a larger project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation at the IEM. In this project, **neonatal anthropometrics and health information of neonates and their mothers from birth records in the maternity hospital in Lausanne (1905-1925) are analysed**. This PhD project specifically focusses on **spatial and other determinants of neonatal/maternal health in Lausanne 1905-1925**, as the historical records also offer residential addresses. In collaboration with experts at the EPFL Lausanne, "cold and hold spots" within the city will be identified. Modern birth weight data from the CoLaus Study will be used for comparison. Also, methods will be developed to meta-analyse the historical data from Lausanne with similar data from Basel and Bern. We are looking for a highly motivated PhD student who will be involved in generating, working-up, and analysing the historical data, in refining related analytical methods, and in collaborating with interdisciplinary teams.

The student will follow the **structured PhD program in Epidemiology and Biostatistics** (<https://www.epibiostat-phd.uzh.ch/en.html>), which is a PhD program of the Life Science Zurich Graduate School (<http://www.lifescience-graduateschool.ch>). The PhD study usually takes **3 years** to complete. The goal of the program is to train PhD students as methodologists with specialized skills in designing, conducting and analyzing studies in a biomedical research context. Students acquire core competencies either in epidemiology or in biostatistics, and competencies specific to the respective field of research.

Your profile:

Applicants should hold a master's degree (MSc) in biostatistics, epidemiology, geography, economic history or another academic discipline suitable for the given topic, and acceptance to the PhD program



in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Suitable candidates should have good programming skills in R, solid knowledge of Biostatistics, and be motivated to collaborate with an interdisciplinary team. An advantage (but not a prerequisite) is experience with spatial-temporal modelling and GIS, as well as basic knowledge of French (because the historical data source is French).

What we offer:

We offer a professional environment that is friendly, highly interdisciplinary, enthusiastic and international. Access to state of the art equipment, infrastructure and shared facilities ensures excellent working conditions.

The following renowned experts will also be involved in the project as collaborators and advisory board members: Prof. Ulrich Woitek (Zurich), Dr. Marek Brabec (Prague), Prof. Bernard Harris (Glasgow), Prof. Eric Schneider (London), Prof. Peter Ward (Vancouver), Prof. Irene Höslü (Basel), Prof. Vincent Barras (Lausanne), Dr. Stéphane Joost (EPFL Lausanne), Prof. Stef van Buuren (Utrecht).

Place of work:

Institute of Evolutionary Medicine (IEM), Winterthurerstrasse 190, 8057 Zürich, Switzerland

Start and duration of employment:

The employment will start in October 2021 or by agreement. The duration is 3 years. The employment modalities (60%) and salary follow the SNSF guidelines. More general information about PhD studies in Zurich here: <https://www.graduates.uzh.ch/en.html>

Application:

Please submit your application by **01.07.2021** via the **link to the online application tool** only: <https://join.lszgs.uzh.ch/>. Make sure to select the PhD Program in Epidemiology & Biostatistics as primary program interest.

Further information:

- **Job Position:** PD Dr. Kaspar Staub, PI (kaspar.staub@iem.uzh.ch) & Prof. Dr. Milo Puhan, Committee Head (milo.puhan@ebpi.uzh.ch)
- **PhD Program:** Sarah Ziegler, PhD (epibiostat-phd@ebpi.uzh.ch)