Zurich, 10 June 2021

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

Temporal 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 focuses on temporal and other determinants of neonatal health (the "Spanish flu" 1918, socioeconomic position, maternal height, etc.) using modern statistical methods. Modern birth weight data 1987-2020 from the Swiss birth register will be used for comparison and assessing the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on birth weight trends in 2020. Also, methods to correct for sample selection bias in the historical data will be developed. 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 a 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 Hösli (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](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/](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](mailto:kaspar.staub@iem.uzh.ch)) & Prof. Dr. Sabine Rohrmann, Committee Head ([sabine.rohrmann@uzh.ch](mailto:sabine.rohrmann@uzh.ch)).
- **PhD Program:** Sarah Ziegler, PhD ([epibiostat-phd@ebpi.uzh.ch](mailto:epibiostat-phd@ebpi.uzh.ch))