Max-Planck-Institut für Menschheitsgeschichte
Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History

Call for a postdoctoral researcher in population genetics

Summary. The Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History in Jena (Germany) is offering a position for a full-time postdoctoral researcher in the field of population genetics. The position is tied to the Eurasia3angle research group. Funded by an ERC Consolidator Grant, this interdisciplinary group will work on "Millet and beans, language and genes. The origin and dispersal of the Transeurasian family." The position is for 4 years, beginning between April and September 2016. Candidates need to have completed a PhD and be familiar with model-based approaches. If interested, please send the application documents specified below to the group's principal investigator, Martine Robbeets (robbeets@shh.mpg.de) by January the 1st, 2016.

Project description. The overarching research topic of the eurasia3angle project is the question about the origin and dispersal of the Transeurasian languages, i.e. the Japonic, Koreanic, Tungusic, Mongolic, and Turkic languages. The key objective is to integrate linguistic, archaeological and genetic evidence in a single approach, for which the term "Triangulation" is used. The intended genetic analyses will examine whether the genetic relationships among Japanese, Korean, Tungusic, Mongolic and Turkic populations are closer to each other than those between Transeurasian and non-Transeurasian groups. We wish to combine genome-wide analyses of autosomal single nucleotide polymorphisms with uniparental analyses of mitochondrial and Y-chromosomal DNA in a model-based approach. We intend to start from publically available data. Unless there is no other option available, we do not plan additional laboratory work.

It is our objective to bring the genetic evidence together with the findings obtained from linguistics and archaeology. Given the fact that a synthesis between the three disciplines is still in its infancy, we intend to work out a consistent methodology of triangulation. For more information on the project please visit our project website
http://www.shh.mpg.de/102128/eurasia3angle_group

Profile
Applicants should have completed a PhD in the field of population genetics or a related field such as molecular anthropology or evolutionary biology and have experience with model-based approaches. Since the postdoctoral population geneticist will closely cooperate with archeologists and linguists she/he must be able to make her/his field accessible for scholars from other disciplines. She/he can present her/his own work and discuss that of others fluently in English and is prepared to work in an international team. Moreover, she/he is open to co-supervise doctoral students in interdisciplinary linguistics.
The Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History welcomes candidates of all nationalities and encourages women to apply. The Max Planck Society is committed to promoting disabled candidates.
For supplementary information on the vacancy and the project please contact Dr. Martine Robbeets robbeets@shh.mpg.de

Salary. Salary will be based on the German pay scale for public employees, depending on experience.

How to apply. Please submit the following documents by January the 1st, 2016 to robbeets@shh.mpg.de

(i) a letter of motivation detailing how you meet the qualifications (max. 500 words)
(ii) a brief research proposal specifying how you could contribute to this project (max. 1000 words)
(iii) a curriculum vitae indicating educational background, previous research experience and publication history.
(iv) a copy of your PhD dissertation
(v) contact information for three references
(vi) recommendation letters from three referees sent directly from the referee to Martine Robbeets

Short-listed candidates will be informed by early March and interviews with top-listed candidates are expected to take place in the weeks thereafter. The successful candidate can start between April and September 2016.