



Call for a doctoral researcher in phylolinguistics

Summary. The Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History in Jena (Germany) is offering a position for a full-time doctoral researcher in the field of phylolinguistics. 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 up to 4 years, beginning September 1st, 2016. Prospective PhD candidates need to have completed an MA in linguistics, in one of the Transeurasian languages or in phylogenetics and be familiar with historical comparative linguistics. A good command of Russian and linguistic knowledge of more than one Transeurasian language is highly appreciated. If interested, please send the application documents specified below to the group’s principal investigator, Martine Robbeets (robbeets@shh.mpg.de) by May 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 we use the term “Triangulation”. In the phylogenetic linguistic part of the project, we will apply computational techniques from evolutionary biology to linguistic data. By doing this, we want to test the internal structure of the Transeurasian genealogical unity, provide a dating for the nodes of the family, make inferences about the robustness of the branches and check the compatibility of the phylogenetic signals in lexical and structural datasets. It is our ultimate goal to bring the linguistic evidence together with the findings obtained from genetics and archaeology. For more information on the project please visit our project website
http://www.shh.mpg.de/102128/eurasia3angle_group

Profile. Applicants should be eager to find out more about the roots of the people, languages and cultures of North and East Asia. They should have completed an MA with excellent study results in linguistics, in one of the Transeurasian languages or in phylogenetics before September 1st 2016. They should be familiar with historical comparative linguistics. Ideally, they also have a good command of Russian and linguistic knowledge of more than one Transeurasian language. For reasons of compatibility with the other team members, candidates with knowledge of Tungusic or Mongolic languages are strongly encouraged to apply.

Successful candidates are able to present their own work and discuss that of others fluently in English and are prepared to work in an international team. Moreover, they are open to crossing the boundaries of their own field and to contribute to the integration of the three disciplines.

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

Benefits. We offer employment as a doctoral researcher for three years with the possibility of a 1-year extension. If successful, you will be awarded a PhD degree in linguistics. You will conduct your research in a highly stimulating and research-oriented environment. Salary will be based on the German public service scale 50% to 65% E13. Office space and equipment will be provided along with a budget for travelling and other research-related expenses.

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

- (i) a letter of motivation detailing why you are interested and how you meet the qualifications (max. 500 words)
- (ii) a brief research proposal specifying how you could contribute to this project (max. 1000 words, excluding references)
- (iii) a copy of your MA dissertation if already available
- (iv) a curriculum vitae indicating educational background, previous research experience and publication history.
- (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 June and interviews with top-listed candidates are expected to take place in the weeks thereafter. The successful candidate can start as of September 1st.