1-2 postdoctoral fellowships available at the PROMENTA Research Center

About the positions

1-2 postdoctoral fellowships are available at the PROMENTA Research Center, Department of Psychology, University of Oslo. PROMENTA is a newly established interdisciplinary research center at the Department of Psychology aiming to provide answers to three central questions in mental health, well-being, and drug use research: What processes lead to poor and good mental health, and how? How do social and geographic inequalities in mental health arise? How can we develop, tailor, and evaluate effective interventions in communities to promote good mental health? To address these questions, we examine sources of mental health on a variety of levels, such as genetic risk, neurocognitive development, the psychosocial environment, and the sociocultural and political context. For more information about PROMENTA, please visit www.promenta.no.

The 1-2 postdoctoral positions are funded through two grants from the Research Council of Norway for the projects Pathways into Marginalization. A 28-Year Longitudinal Study from Adolescence to Middle Adulthood and The Social Gradient in Mental Health. A Long-Term Longitudinal Study Integrating Survey Data, Register Data, and Molecular Genetic Data.

More about the projects

For both projects

The fellowship is for a period of three years. A fourth year can be considered with the addition of a 25 % teaching requirement, depending on the competence of the applicant and the needs of the department.

Project 1 - Pathways into Marginalization

The postdoctoral fellow will collaborate with colleagues at PROMENTA to provide novel knowledge about pathways into social problems in multiple domains, such as education and work; family, fertility, and social networks; and well-being and mental health. The project will examine (a) how complex marginalization processes in several domains unfold over a formative period in life, from adolescence into middle adulthood; (b) how such processes explain reproduction of marginalization from one generation to the next; and (c) how marginalization in multiple domains influence socio-political attitudes and values.

The project utilizes data from a large-scale longitudinal study, spanning from adolescence over 28 years and which combines survey, register, and molecular genetic data. Other data sources may also be used.

Project 2 - The Social Gradient in Mental Health

The postdoctoral fellow will collaborate with colleagues at PROMENTA to examine social gradients of a wide range of mental health problems, including depression, anxiety, eating disturbances, conduct problems, alcohol use, smoking, and illicit drug use. The project will examine (a) how social gradients in mental health develop from adolescence into middle adulthood; (b) how polygenic risk for mental health problems is related to social marginalization; (c) how socio-economic status and social marginalization interact with genetic risk in predicting mental health problems, and (d) how social gradients vary according to societal contexts. The project utilizes data from a large scale, longitudinal study spanning from adolescence over 28 years and which combines survey, register, and molecular genetic data (N=2,600). Moreover, two other large-scale representative samples of Norwegian adolescents will be used.

We encourage candidates to contact the project leader for more information about the positions and projects prior to submitting an application. Prof. Tilmann von Soest can be reached at t.v.soest@psykologi.uio.no, or phone: +47 99782078.

Qualification requirements

- Applicants must hold a PhD degree or equivalent in relevant fields such as psychology, sociology, medicine, or related. The doctoral dissertation must be submitted for evaluation by the closing date for applications.
- Strong skills in quantitative analysis.
- Long-term potential for high-quality research.
- Excellent English skills, orally and in writing are required.
- Ambitions for high-quality research within the project, as evidenced by the required letter of application, explaining the motivation for applying and how own qualifications are suitable for the announced position. Please specify which project you are most interested in, or if you do not have a preference.

The following are considered advantageous:

- Experience with longitudinal data analysis, multilevel analysis, genetically informed studies, or structural equation modelling.
- Experience in research in the fields of mental health, social marginalization, or developmental psychology.
In assessing applications, particular emphasis will be placed upon the quality of the candidate’s academic qualifications. Interviews with selected candidates will be arranged where the applicants personal suitability, motivation and cooperative skills will be emphasized.

We offer

- Salary grade  NOK 552 800 - 640 200 per year, depending on qualifications
- A professionally stimulating work environment in a newly established research center at the Department of Psychology
- Opportunities for extensive collaboration with our national and international collaborators
- Favorable pension and social welfare benefits

How to apply

The application must include

- Letter of application, 1-2 pages, explaining the motivation for applying and how own qualifications are suitable for the announced postdoc position.
- Curriculum vitae summarizing education and positions, including a publication list.
- Copies of educational certificates and up to five publications/academic work that the applicant wishes to be considered by the evaluation committee.
- Names and contact details of at least two references (name, relation to candidate, e-mail, and telephone number).

International applicants are advised to attach an explanation of their University’s grading system. All documents should be in Scandinavian or English.

Formal regulations

Please see the guidelines and regulations for appointments to Postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Oslo.

No one can be appointed for more than one Postdoctoral Fellow period at the University of Oslo.

According to the Norwegian Freedom of Information Act (Offentleglova) information about the applicant may be included in the public applicant list, also in cases where the applicant has requested non-disclosure.

The University of Oslo has an agreement for all employees, aiming to secure rights to research results etc.

The University of Oslo aims to achieve a balanced gender composition in the workforce and to recruit people with ethnic minority backgrounds.

Contact information

Prof. Tilmann von Soest can be reached at t.v.soest@psykologi.uio.no, or phone: +47 99782078

Head of office Joakim Dyrnes, e-mail: joakim.dyrnes@psykologi.uio.no

About the University of Oslo

The University of Oslo is Norway’s oldest and highest ranked educational and research institution, with 28,000 students and 7000 employees. With its broad range of academic disciplines and internationally recognised research communities, UiO is an important contributor to society.

The Department of Psychology is one of seven units of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and has 75 permanent and 70 temporary members of scientific staff. Degrees are offered at bachelor and master level, plus a clinical training programme, and the PhD programme has 140 students.

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