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Zurich, November, 2020

PRE DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP (for up to 4 years)
Depts of Psychology and Sociology and the Jacobs Center for Productive Youth Development,
University of Zürich, Switzerland

Profs. Michael Shanahan and Moritz Daum invite applications for a PhD student position with a strong interest in the interplay between context, behaviour, and gene expression.

The position is part of the research project "**Socioeconomic status and the regulation of the genome**" funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. The main goal of this project is to use data from the US, the Netherlands, and Switzerland to examine how education, income, and occupation are correlated with gene expression patterns, as well as the mechanisms that might explain these correlations.

This position will focus on data collected in Switzerland as part of z-proso (<https://www.jacobscenter.uzh.ch/de/research/zproso/aboutus.html>), a longitudinal study of about 1,400 primary students that began data collection in 2004; the eighth wave was collected in 2018 when participants were 20 years old. In wave 8, genetic expression (and GWAS) data were collected from a subsample of z-proso, as well as measures of the stress process, including perceptions of stress, vigilance, defensiveness, perceptual bias, stress threshold, and hostility bias.

The **goal of this position** is to develop models that explain the precursors to these measures—drawing on waves 1-7 of z-proso—and their consequences, including gene expression patterns. The PhD candidate will work as part of an international team that includes a statistician, data analyst, experts on z-proso, and a specialist in social genomics, in addition to Profs. Michael Shanahan and Moritz Daum.

Requirements:

MA in Psychology or Sociology with strong quantitative training. Interest in the psychobiology of the stress process. Solid background in R is an asset. Good command of English (German is “a plus”), and interest in pursuing an academic career. The successful candidate should have excellent teamwork skills and be interested in going beyond disciplinary boundaries

Research environment:

We offer work in an interdisciplinary, international, and collegial environment located at Jacobs Center for Productive Youth Development, the University of Zürich. The position can lead to a PhD from the Department of Psychology or Sociology. Compensation for the 90% position is approximately CHF 70,000 annually for up to 4 years. In addition, some travel funds are available each year for the doctoral student to visit national and international conferences or attend workshops.



Application:

The review of applications will begin immediately and continue until position is filled. The position will start as soon as possible but no later than 1 March 2021 and will last for four years.

Applications should include:

- (i) a cover letter that relates the applicants' experience and interests to the project
- (ii) a comprehensive CV
- (iii) a copy of the MA thesis
- (iv) the names and contact information of at least two references.
- (v) Candidates for the position are additionally required to submit an R code sample (URL or attachment).

Please send the documents in combined into **one PDF file** to Prof. Drs. Michael Shanahan (michael.shanahan.uzh@gmail.com) and Moritz Daum daum@psychologie.uzh.ch, both of whom may be contacted for further information.