EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS INTERSECTORAL MOBILITY SCHEME PROJECT ABSTRACT BOOKLET

Circle U.
European University Alliance

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International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

Country: Austria

Sector: Research

Website: https://iiasa.ac.at/

Address: Schlossplatz 1 | A-2361 Laxenburg, Austria

Contact: Celian Colon

Role: Research Scholar

Project title: Assessing the indirect costs of compound disasters - an agent-based model applied to Cambodia

Project summary

Climate changes, pandemics, and geopolitical tensions are creating conditions for « perfect storms » on our economies, whereby the impact of one event is magnified by the occurrence of another. This project aims to estimate the magnifying effect of compound events, using Cambodia as a case study. It will use the agent-based model of Colon et al. (2020), which has already been developed and is operational for Cambodia. This model is calibrated on data and simulates disaster-induced disruptions and their impacts on supply chains. The objective of the project is to run simulations with different combinations of events (e.g., simultaneous floods in two regions, one flood in one region followed by another one a week later, floods with import/export restriction on the main international port) and to analyze the « magnifying » effect. The model is already fully operational, and simulations last few minutes.

The candidate is expected to: define relevant compound disaster scenarios, run simulations, analyze the output data, identify insights and area for further research.

Colon, C., Hallegatte, S., & Rozenberg, J. (2020). Criticality analysis of a country's transport network via an agent-based supply chain model. Nature Sustainability, 4, 209 - 215.

Skills required

- Modeling
- Data analysis
- Python

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International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

Country: Austria

Sector: Research

Website: https://iiasa.ac.at/

Address: Schlossplatz 1 | A-2361 Laxenburg, Austria

Contact: Aleksandr Martusevich

Role: Guest senior researcher scholar

Project title: Identifying or designing appropriate governance models for integrated, sustainable & inclusive development of a region

Project summary

Background: Low & medium-income countries face many challenges related to sustainable and inclusive, integrated development of their resource rich or, on the contrary, depressed regions to the benefit of local communities and the whole country. One is a coordinated coherent development of: (i) several sectors (e.g logging, mining, oil & gas extraction, processing, agri-food production, developing associated services), so that to produce high value-added products demanded on the market; and (ii) required infrastructure and human settlements. Another is establishing a sound framework to manage development of respective region, located sometimes within several administrative-territorial units (provinces, counties). There are several administrative and business models known from the past, incl. establishing a dedicated entity: from Hudson Bay and East-India company (do whatever you want approach) to private (United Fruit type) or State corporation, or even Ministry responsible for developing the region in question (top-down planning and management). However, so far most of them lacked a systemic approach to integrated coherent development: failed to sufficiently address the former challenge, or largely disrespected local cultural values and the way of living, overall lacked focus on the human or environmental dimensions of development.

Proposed 2023 summer project: interested ECR(s), with support from IIASA, would: at preparatory stage, elaborate assessment methodology for models applicable to govern development; then identify or design a sound administrative and(or) business model for developing selected region located, for instance, in: Central Asia (middle income, resource rich), Near East (arid depressed region) or Africa (resource rich but not yet developed, low income, politically unstable, lacking food security etc.) - several options supported by respective legend, maps and background materials will be offered in advance by IIASA staff & guest researcher who would supervise & steward research work implemented by interested ECR(s).

Skills required

- Strong analytical skills
- Willingness to undertake a multi-disciplinary research
- Some knowledge of development economics, micro- & macro- economics, economic geography and environmental economics
- Understanding of institutional and governance issues and the political economy of change

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International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

Country: Austria

Sector: Research

Website: https://iiasa.ac.at/

Address: Schlossplatz 1 | A-2361 Laxenburg, Austria

Contact: Elena Rovenskaya

Role: Program Director of Advancing Systems Analysis

Project title: Using Complex Adaptive Systems Theory and ecological thinking to better understand and regulate digital platform ecosystems

Project summary

Rapid digitalisation of recent decades has propelled a new form of economic agent: the digital platform (DP), which provides digital infrastructures to facilitate interdependent social and economic exchanges. A DP can grow a vast ecosystem of multiple user groups where autonomous producers, consumers, and complementors with matching incentives strive to create, exchange, and consume value and the platform orchestrates the ecosystem to maximise revenue generated from facilitated interactions. Adaptability, flexibility, self-organization, emergent complexity, feedback loops, and co-creation of public value are some key characteristics which have enabled digital platform ecosystems (DPEs) to rapidly attain success. These characteristics also pertain to natural ecosystems (NE), and in fact, form the fundamental attributes of any complex adaptive system (CAS). The parallels between DPEs and NEs inspired business leaders and entrepreneurs to draw analogies and metaphors from NEs to guide their own strategies including insights by Moore (1993) who coined the term 'ecosystem' to describe companies with co-evolving capabilities which harness cooperative and competitive interactions to create value; Iansiti and Levien (2004) who adapted 'keystone species' to describe the role of ecosystem orchestrators in the value creation of business ecosystems; and Lianos & Carballa-Smichowski (2022) who explored network-based indicators such as centrality motivated by their relevance in ecology to measure market power.

We invite students with backgrounds in ecology, economics, or in applied mathematics who are interested in highly exploratory and policy relevant research to discover and develop, together with an IIASA team, further analogies from ecology to better understand DPEs and provide regulators tools to support policymaking. Areas of focus may include innovation dynamics; unfair competition including killer acquisitions; predatory pricing; data as public good; among others.

Skills equired

- Background in ecology, economics, or/and mathematics
- Interest in interdisciplinary research

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International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

Country: Austria

Sector: Research

Website: https://iiasa.ac.at/

Address: Schlossplatz 1 | A-2361 Laxenburg, Austria

Contact: Linda See

Role: Senior Research Scholar in NODES Research Group

Project title: Demonstrating Web3 infrastructure support to the sustainability of citizen science projects using the Picture Pile app as an example

Project summary

Citizen science engages civilians in contributing data and knowledge to support scientific and policy advancements. The motivation for participating in citizen science has often been categorised as "volunteer work", "feel-good activities", and "want to support science". However, the current practice in citizen science projects can lack rewarding mechanisms, contribution recognition, and follow-up traceability in research results. For research projects that work with citizen scientists' contributions, it is often a problem to market the project and engage with contributors. Lastly, environmental research projects usually end with its funding, and the resources built are rarely open for further development as local contributions. Without a sustainable and engaging mechanism, citizen science projects fail to survive after project funding duration and miss the opportunity to serve as a local knowledge database that promotes the preserves traditional and local knowledge according to the ones mentioned in the Convention on Biological Diversity. On the other hand, applications using web 3.0 technology to serve actual citizen science projects are currently an understudied subject. In recent years, the technology has suffered from high speculation and money laundering activities due to its ability to preserve monetary value in cloud software.

This research aims to evaluate the feasibility of implementing web 3.0 infrastructure to promote the sustainability of environmental citizen science projects that uses mobile applications and sensors to collect environmental data. Empirical and explorative research methods, such as literature research and application development, will be conducted to build the content of this study. The research will build a foundational method for future environmental citizen science projects to test and implement Web 3.0 infrastructure in their project to drive sustainable impact.

Skills required

- IT skills
- Programming
- Block chain implementation
- Citizen science

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Louvain Cooperation

Country: Belgium

Sector: NGO

Website: https://www.louvaincooperation.org/en

Address: Avenue du Grand Cortil, 15A | Louvain-la-Neuve | Belgium

Contact: Vincent Henin

Role: Thematic Referent on Environment

Project title: Digitalisation and Testing of the Environmental Integration Tool Producer

Project summary

Louvain Coopération, the NGO of UCLouvain (Belgium), has developed a methodology for systematically integrating the environment into its economic programs, the Environmental Integration Tool (EIT) Approach which is based on two complementary tools, available on its website:

- the EIT-Program, designed to give structured attention to the reciprocal impact of a productive programme with its environment.

- the EIT-Producer, intended to structure the reflection of an economic agent (an individual, a family, a group, an association, a cooperative, a community, etc.), responsible for a productive activity on its relationship with its environment.

This EIT Approach has been implemented in all Louvain Coopération's programs but has also been adopted by many organisations, including Directorate General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid.

"The application of the 1015 EIT Producer resulted in 1049 self-determined commitments by the local producers…such as crop rotation, composting and usage of organic inputs and pesticides, integrated management of crop pests and diseases, reforestation, the use of living hedges and many others….generated 794 pro-environmental actions, which represents 77.31% of the commitments".

The IOE-Producer application presents challenges for implementation, monitoring, archiving, academic valorisation, and knowledge management. The next step of this process is thus the digitisation of EIT-Producer (with Kobotoolbox, an open-source technological solution):

- easier to use; strengthened and systematised monitoring capacities for users, especially development actors; generation of scientific data for potential academic research, particularly impact evaluation.

The objective of this collaboration with a researcher is to contribute to the EIT-Producer digitalisation pilot. The expected output of this collaboration is a validated and tested in the field of a digital EIT-Producer tool.

Skills required

- Environment externalities
- Assessment and Digital data collection tool

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Louvain Cooperation

Country: Belgium

Sector: NGO

Website: https://www.louvaincooperation.org/en

Address: Avenue du Grand Cortil, 15A | Louvain-la-Neuve | Belgium

Contact: Amaury Peeters

Role: Head of Research & Development

Project title: Multi-Context Analysis to Support Sustainable Food Systems Transitions

Project summary

The current challenges faced by food systems call for a more holistic approach and a rapid transition towards ampler sustainable approaches. Agroecology is increasingly seen as a credible and integrated approach combining ecological and social principles to develop sustainable and equitable food systems. Proofs of the positive impacts of agroecology exists but remains fragmented and context dependent.

Louvain Cooperation (LC) is co-implementing with local organisations different projects on sustainable food systems and agroecology in 8 countries distributed in South America, Africa and Asia. As University NGO of UCLouvain, LC is active in making links and cross-fertilisations between research and development practices. Within its current program ('22-'26), LC and its partners have put an effort to collect substantial data aiming to characterise the agroecological transitions and the related potentials impacts. A total of over 1800 farmers are being currently interviewed between the end of '22 and the beginning of '23 to form the knowledge basis of projects interventions, reporting and reflection. LC works in partnership with FAO since 2019 to pilot a new tool, called TAPE (Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation) in its interventions. This tool has dedicated indicators to measure impacts of agroecology.

The objectives of this collaboration with a researcher are first to help measure the collected data related to the characterisation of transitions and its impacts; secondly to support field offices in their analysis and interpretation of collected data to inform the ongoing transitions, thirdly to prepare restitutions and discussions with farmers or farmers associations and to orient future intervention strategies.

The expected outputs of this collaboration are an in-depth analysis of collected data in a complementary way of existing automatic processing, an active participation in meetings and discussions with both R&D and Operation teams and field offices to advance the understanding gained from the analysis, and concrete contributions to the suggestions on intervention strategies.

Skills required

- Food Systems
- Agroecology
- Data Analysis
- Interpersonal skills

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Mind & Market

Country: Belgium

Sector: Innovation & Start-ups

Website: https://www.mindandmarket.com/en/

Address: 6, chemin du cyclotron, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve Belgium

Contact: Martin Nera

Role: CEO

Project title: Digitising expert feedback for startups pitch sessions

Project summary

Founded in 2009 by UCLouvain and a Belgian Entrepreneurs' association, Mind & Market is the largest community of start-ups in Belgium and Luxembourg, with 450 active projects and 6600 members. Therefore, we organise a lot of pitch sessions for the project owners, which have 5 minutes to present, followed by 10 minutes of feedback from the jury. This project aims to find a solution to collect the content of the pitch and the feedback from experts during our activities and include them in our digital reports. How can we collect the information transmitted orally or written on post-its and transform it into digitised data without disrupting the flow of the activity?

We would therefore need to find a communications researcher/UX/IT engineer to work with us on designing a working prototype of a solution to this challenge. The following attempts have been made: we have tried using a Wooclap-type tool (works online but not in person) and audio recording of pitches and transcription via AI, but the transcription that emerges is not good enough and it requires too much human processing work after the event, making it unscalable. We are not experts in AI, and I am sure we can improve a lot on the ASR and improve the quality of the recordings to improve the recognition accuracy with the right expertise.

Our proposal aims to work between 19 June and 14 July with the team on a prototype and to try and test a solution in person at a Forum. The applicant will work with an innovative and hardworking team and get to know a lot of start-ups and players in the Belgian start-up scene. Finally, this is a great opportunity to apply your knowledge to a practical use case that will benefit many Belgian start-ups.

Skills required

- Design thinking
- Digitisation
- AI (ASR - Automatic Speech Recognition)

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Constructive Institute

Country: Denmark

Sector: Journalism, media, policy, AI

Website: www.constructiveinstitute.org

Address: Bartholins Alle 16, Building 1328, 1. floor, 8000 Aarhus C.

Contact: Peter Damgaard Kristensen

Role: Head of Research and Development

Project title: Constructive Journalism

Project summary

The Constructive Institute (CI) is an independent organization that lies at the heart of the constructive journalism movement. Our mission is to change the global news culture. The institute wants to help journalists and news organizations to apply constructive reporting in their daily work through providing access to an inspiring best practices portal, a world-class fellowship program, relevant training curricula, and initiating rigorous independent academic research. We invite applicants for two ongoing projects:

1. Strengthening collaboration between researchers and journalists: Some research topics are very difficult to present to the public through the media. This can be due to their complex nature or because the field is considered controversial (climate, vaccines, nuclear power etc.). We invite researchers who want to explore how the constructive journalism approach can help improve their science communication skills and strengthen mutual understanding between journalism and academia.

2. Machine learning, AI and natural language processing: CI is currently working to develop a tool that can identify constructive journalism in journalistic work. The tool has to be automatic, reliable and language-based. The ambition is to develop a tool that can help guide editorial processes in the newsroom and identify quality journalism. We invite researchers with experience in NLP, AI or similar to help develop the model further in collaboration with CI's two data scientists.

CI is not a research institution, but an NGO that is working with journalism innovation in an international work environment with around 10 resident journalism fellows from Danish and international media. Send an application if you are interested in building bridges between academia and journalism and want to apply you research skills to a growing international movement in the media world.

Skills required

- Science communication
- AI
- NLP

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City of Paris

Country: France

Sector: Local Government

Website: www.paris.fr

Address: 5 rue de Lobau, 75004 Paris, France

Contact: Elisabeth Lehec

Role: In charge of relations between the City and scientists working on ecological transition

Project title: Production of state-of-the-art reports and case study sheets to be used in the design of thematic knowledge synthesis books on ecological transition

Project summary

In November 2021, the City of Paris signed a partnership agreement with the "Groupe régional d'experts sur le climat et la transition écologique francilien (GREC)", a local version of the IPCC, which brings together researchers from all disciplines interested in assisting local authorities in the implementation of transition actions. The first stage of the partnership with the GREC consists in having GREC researchers prepare knowledge synthesis notebooks for the project managers of the various operational departments of the City (notably, the Department of Urban Planning, Roads and Transportation, Cleanliness and Water, Green Spaces and the Environment, Citizen Democracy and Territories, Public Health and Solidarity).

Missions: Under the supervision of the head of the City/Research Interface Unit of the Ecological Transition and Climate Department, and in collaboration with the coordinators and researchers of the GREC, the intern will contribute to the production of these state of the art reports and/or case study sheets for the City of Paris departments implementing the transition. Depending on his or her areas of expertise, the intern will reinforce the work teams on one of the following four topics

- The management of organic materials in cities (food, bio-waste, urine, soil).
- The participation of the working classes in the ecological transition
- Risks and benefits of environmental changes on health
- Energy and material sobriety.

These themes will be addressed in a more focused way by January 2023, and the work of developing the state of the art will begin in February 2023.

Deliverables: At the end of his or her mission, the intern will deliver, depending on his or her profile and the state of progress of the book on which he or she will work:

- a state of the art report of about ten pages, written and problematized, which will feed one of the four knowledge synthesis notebooks. The exact layout and topic will be defined at the beginning of the mission, according to the profile of the selected candidate and the needs at the time.
- case study reports which will be included in one of the four knowledge synthesis notebooks.

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Skills required

- We are looking for a doctoral student or post-doctoral fellow in urban sociology, geography, urban planning, anthropology, whose research interests are related to the ecological transition of large cities.

- The candidate should have an understanding of transition issues at the urban scale and/or of the stakeholder systems of the transition at this scale. The link between the above-mentioned topics and the candidate's doctoral and post-doctoral work must be explained in the application.

- Fluency in French is not mandatory but would obviously facilitate interactions.

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European University Hospital Alliance

Country: France

Sector: Healthcare, sociology

Website: https://www.euhalliance.eu/

Address: 55 boulevard Diderot, 75012 Paris, France

Contact: Vera Asvanyi

Role: Steering Committee member for AP-HP

Project title: Sustainability of an attractive healthcare sector in the future, adapted to the new generation's expectations

Project summary

For the past decade, the demands on healthcare systems have been increasing because of the aging population (more rare diseases identified, more expensive therapeutic options available). The increased demands have been compounded by increased pressure on healthcare workers. Demographic, cultural and social changes as well as limited financing schemes are some of the reasons that have led to a reduced attractiveness of the healthcare sector for young people and an increased outflow of experienced healthcare workers.

The pandemic, followed by the ongoing energy and financial crisis has further worsened the situation for European health professionals. University hospitals are increasingly affected by this development. For that reason, the CEOs of the European University Hospital Alliance (EUHA) highlighted this topic as one of the most pressing challenges for EUHA members and are aiming to act together.

We conducted a PESTEL analysis based on interviews searching for reasons that led to the crisis: Political, economic, social, technical, environmental and legal factors . This analysis showed that social factors play an increasing role in the decision for healthcare workers to leave the sector. The pressure by the demographic change that puts strain on the workforce through retirement and losing experienced professionals on the one side and a higher demand for medical procedures by an older population on the other side is even more intensified by a young generation that has different priorities for their work and private life. The appreciation shown for the nursing profession as well as the lack of financial recognition could also be mentioned as reasons for the staff shortage.

How and when this shortage could have been predicted? What factors have led to attitudinal changes? Can it still be reversible? How to create a healthcare model which fits expectations in the word of constraints?

Skills required

- Sociology
- Psychology
- Basic knowledge of European healthcare systems

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Humboldt-Innovation GmbH

Country: Germany

Sector: Knowledge & Tech Transfer (KTT) for Humboldt-Universität

Website: https://humboldt-innovation.de

Address: Ziegelstr. 30, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Contact: Daniela Rings

Role: Leitung Innovation Management & IP Services

Project title: Knowledge & Tech Transfer Controlling

Project summary

In order to optimize our services for researchers and potential cooperation partners, we strive to implement a system of performance indicators for all Knowledge & Tech Transfer activities. The ECR selected to work on this project will help us identify the necessary data base to then research, draft and test as well as benchmark the potential performance indicators.

Skills required

- Knowledge & tech transfer experience

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Oslo Science City

Country: Norway

Sector: Innovation, climate, energy and environment

Website: www.oslosciencecity.no

Address: Gaustadalléen 21, 0349 Oslo, Norway

Contact: Katrine Vetlesen

Role: Director Knowledge and Business Development

Project title: Developing the Oslo Science City Arena in Climate, Energy and Environment

Project summary

Oslo Science City is Norway's first innovation district. In the middle of Norway's most knowledge-intensive area we are currently developing a vibrant area with room for businesses and strong ecosystems for innovation. From the broad and varied knowledge base in Oslo Science City, four strong thematic fields clearly stand out. They can all point to internationally leading expertise related to research and innovation. These are broad thematic fields that span a wide range of professional disciplines. We call them gravitational fields of expertise: Health and life sciences / Digitalization and computational sciences / Climate, energy and the environment / Democracy and inclusion

The four thematic gravitational fields demonstrate particular strengths in today's Oslo Science City. Here we find solid and well-established alliances. Oslo Science City wants to help enable and improve innovation opportunities by creating an arena for leading researchers and highly motivated students to interact with dynamic business incubators and disruptive companies: The newly established Oslo Science City Arena is a concept to share excellent research, knowledge and experience, accelerating the growth of new ideas. Starting in 2023, the Oslo Science City Arena concept will be applied to the gravitational field of Climate, energy and the environment.

The project scope for Circle U is a feasibility study that covers:

- identifying flagship research projects and industrial excellence within Climate, energy and the environment
- developing of an overarching theme and concept of international format for the Arena
- coordinating ecosystem stakeholders from academia, industry, government, finance and startups

The project is a unique opportunity for a European candidate to interact with a world leading ecosystem of research and innovation within Climate, energy and the environment – a field where Norway in general and Oslo Science City in particular has a global ambition of accelerating the energy transition through innovation.

Skills required

- Interest in research & innovation
- Interest in climate, energy & environment

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World Expression Forum AS

Country: Norway

Sector: Policy

Website: https://wexfo.no/

Address: Wieses gate 2e, 2609 Lillehammer, Norway

Contact: Kristenn Einarsson

Role: CEO

Project title: Digital and Media Literacy for the future

Project summary

Background: Access to information, and knowledge about how to understand the information, is a prerequisite for freedom of expression and participation in democracy. The strategy of autocrats and others to create alternative "truths" and distribute fake news is a challenge in finding trustworthy information and gain understanding.

World Expression Forum: World Expression Forum aims to ensure and empower global free expression based on high level guidance, best practice, and high-quality analysis. Currently we run the projects "Youth's Participation in Society" and ": "How is the freedom of expression of citizens?"

Project "Digital and Media Literacy for the future": We want to consider if it is possible to develop a strategy and implementation tools for a "Digital and Media Literacy" that can help citizens. Before we start a project, we need to understand what the challenges are and what measures can be taken.

Tasks planned for an Early Career Researcher:

- Collect information about what is known about the challenges facing citizens to find trustworthy information.
- Collect information about measures that have been taken or are discussed. What is available to help citizens to navigate.
- If possible, recommend a hypothesis, structure and working method for a main project.
- Produce a report which will be used in planning and in the search for funding, if it is decided to go ahead with a project.

Skills required

- Knowledge of project work
- Ability to extract necessary information and present this in a report

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Citizens UK, South London Chapter

Country: United Kingdom

Sector: Civil society

Website: https://www.citizensuk.org/chapters/south-london/

Address: N/A

Contact: Paulina Tamborrel Signoret

Role: Senior Organiser, South West London

Project title: Tackling injustice in London communities

Project summary

Our mission at Citizens UK is to develop leaders, strengthen communities and create change. Through training, one-to-one support and lots of 'on the ground' work, people that never thought of themselves as leaders bring people together, think up political strategies and lead others into action. We support organisations in living out their values and building relationships within their membership and with their wider community. The victories of Citizens UK started with the lived experience of our members and their ability to envision a different future. We have won policy changes, affordable homes, fair wages, better and more inclusive services, and more. The people we work with and the work we do with them is remarkable, but the pace at which we have to work is relentless. We are interested in taking a closer look at the work we do and the impact it has on our core mission.

We are looking for an ECR to support us and our members in reflecting on lessons learned and perhaps help us articulate our work more clearly to encourage others to join us. The ECR would be based in the South London Chapter. South London Citizens is the second oldest Citizens Chapter within Citizens UK, and is formed of eight local alliances building power for the common good south of the Thames. 115 civil society institutions come together to organise and tackle issues in their communities such as affordable housing, youth safety, migrant rights, mental health, parenting, the climate crisis and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) provision. Schools, universities, churches, mosques, synagogues, migrant groups, charities, GP surgeries, and other community organisations come together and grow every day through their organising. We would be particularly interested in an ECR that is excited about capturing how being involved in community organising can transform institutions, their culture, leadership and power. Citizens South London Chapter encompasses many different social justice projects and the specific focus for the research project can be agreed with the researcher depending on their interests.

Skills required

- Enthusiasm & self-motivation
- Interest in social justice
- Experience in social research methodologies
- Analytical skills
- Prior experience of community projects and experience of working with diverse groups

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