



The Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI-KNAW) has a vacancy for two PhD researchers (1.0 fte each)

“The impact of lifestyle factors on past trends in socio-economic inequalities in mortality”

Job description

Inequalities in mortality between socio-economic groups are a persistent challenge for society. The recent widening of socio-economic mortality inequalities in modern welfare states, despite major efforts to reduce them, has raised important questions regarding what is driving these past trends, what can be expected for the future, and to what extent policy measures can revert the trend.

Answering these questions requires advanced knowledge on – particularly - the changing contribution of lifestyle factors, e.g. smoking, obesity and excessive alcohol consumption, to past trends in socio-economic mortality inequalities. The two PhD researchers will obtain this knowledge for obesity and excessive alcohol consumption, respectively. For this purpose, they will analyze prevalence and mortality data by educational level for selected European countries, using a dynamic and cross-national perspective.

They will do so as part of the VICI research project by Fanny Janssen on “Forecasting future socio-economic inequalities in longevity: the impact of lifestyle ‘epidemics’”, which was recently funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).

The PhD researchers are expected to write – in English - 4 to 5 first-authored international academic journal articles, each, which together will make up the main part of their individually written PhD thesis. In addition, the PhDs are expected to contribute to the further dissemination of their research findings within and beyond academia, by, among others, presenting at (inter)national conferences, writing one professional article each, and by regularly updating the project website.

The PhD students will be supervised by Prof. dr. Fanny Janssen (NIDI), Prof. dr. Anton Kunst (Dept of Public Health, University of Amsterdam) (second promotor), and a postdoctoral researcher, and will collaborate with international experts.

Requirements

Candidates should have:

- a (Research) Master's degree in a relevant field of study (e.g. population studies, demography, epidemiology, health sciences);
- excellent study results;
- knowledge of literature relevant to the research topic;
- previous experience with applying quantitative epidemiological and/or demographic research methods;
- good writing skills and fluency in English; preferably experience in academic writing;
- strong conceptual thinking;
- a strong motivation, adequate communication skills, a proactive attitude and a capacity of working independently.

Conditions of employment

The initial appointment will be for a period of one year. After a positive evaluation, the appointment will be extended for another three years. A psychological assessment may be part of the selection procedure. The gross monthly salary will be between € 2,325 (year 1) and € 2,972 (year 4). Benefits include pension contribution, annual holiday premium of 8% and an end-of-year premium of 8.3%. Non-Dutch nationals may be eligible for a substantial tax break (30% ruling).

Expected starting date of the PhD research is October 1, 2020. The PhD student is expected to apply for and take part in the International Max Planck Research School for Population, Health and Data Science (IMPRS-PHDS).

Employer

The Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI) is a research institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and affiliated with the University of Groningen. NIDI is located in the center of The Hague. The staff of the institute consists of about 50 persons, mostly researchers.

Place of work

NIDI, Lange Houtstraat 19, 2511CV, The Hague.

Additional information

For additional information you may contact prof. dr. Fanny Janssen (email: janssen@nidi.nl or phone: +31 70 3565242).

Application procedure

Candidates are invited to submit their application in English. Applications must include, in a single PDF file:

- A motivation letter (no more than 1 page).
- A full curriculum vitae, including – if applicable - a list of publications.
- Names and contact details of two referees whom we might contact for a recommendation
- For non-native English speakers and individuals coming from a non-Dutch secondary educational institute: a recent TOEFL or equivalent English comprehension test score (TOEFL: a minimum average of 6.5 for the total test and a minimum of 6.0 for each test component).
- Full grade list of the (research) Master and Bachelor programs of graduation.

If you have a clear preference for either one of the topics (alcohol or obesity) please indicate this in your motivation letter.

The closing date for submitting your application is **May 13 2020**.

Please send your application to hr@nidi.nl.

Interviews (most likely via skype) are expected to take place in the last week of May or first week of June.

Any acquisition further to this advertisement will not be appreciated.
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