

Postdoc position for 21 month in Theoretical Evolutionary Ecology at Bielefeld University

A Postdoc position in theoretical evolutionary ecology is available at the Faculty of Biology at Bielefeld University in the Department of Evolutionary Biology. The position can start as soon as possible and is funded until the end of the year 2021 by the German Research Foundation (DFG) within the recently approved collaborative research centre (SFB/TRR 212) entitled: A Novel Synthesis of Individualisation across Behaviour, Ecology and Evolution: Niche Choice, Niche Conformance, Niche Construction (NC³).

The aim of the Postdoc project is to develop ecological and evolutionary theory to contribute towards a better understanding of intra-specific niche variation. The project is entitled “Modelling adaptive individualized niches in behaviour” (sub-project D04 of the collaborative research centre, with Klaus Reinhold). This theoretical project will explore the conditions that favour the evolution of between-individual variation in behavioural niches. The aim is to focus on mate choice and exploration and examine to which extent phenotypic variation can be maintained based on genetic differences and variation in adaptive phenotypic plasticity.

The collaborative research centre: The Postdoc will be embedded within a larger collaborative research centre (SFB) comprising 18 principle investigators and more than 20 postdoc and PhD students based at Bielefeld University, the University of Münster and the University of Jena. The aim of the SFB is to produce a conceptual and empirical synthesis of individualization across behaviour, ecology and evolution. The SFB will provide exceptional opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and academic networking, together with structured training, scientific exchange and early career support programs. Full details of the SFB can be found at www.uni-bielefeld.de/biologie/crc212. For further information on the projects and the involved departments, please contact Klaus Reinhold (klaus.reinhold@uni-bielefeld.de) with any informal inquiries

Main responsibilities

Research tasks: Development of eco-evolutionary models (90%)

- Mathematical analysis of models
- Implementation in a programming language, e.g. in R, C++, Python
- Simulation studies
- Collaboration with other research groups in the collaborative research centre
- Writing scientific publications

Organizational tasks in the research group and collaborative research centre (10%)

Applicant's profile

We seek bright and highly motivated postdoctoral researchers with

- a university degree in a relevant discipline, e.g. biology, mathematics, physics or bioinformatics
- a completed PhD in a relevant field, ideally related to theoretical ecology, population genetics, behavioral ecology or evolutionary ecology
- experience with mathematical modeling of evolutionary processes
- programming skills in at least one programming language (e.g. R, C++, Python)
- ability to work both independently and as part of a team
- excellent oral and written communication skills in English

The following qualifications would additionally be of advantage:

- papers in peer-reviewed international journals,
- experience in collaborations between empiricists and theoreticians, and
- experience with high-performance computing

Remuneration

Salary will be paid according to Remuneration level 13 of the Wage Agreement for Public Service in the Federal States (TV-L). As stipulated in § 2 (1) sentences 2 of the WissZeitVG (fixed-term employment), the contract will end on December 31, 2021 (extension possible). In accordance with the provisions of the WissZeitVG and the Agreement on Satisfactory Conditions of Employment, the length of contract may differ in individual cases. The employment is designed to encourage further academic qualification. In principle, these full-time position may be changed into a part-time position, as long as this does not conflict with official needs. Bielefeld University is particularly committed to equal opportunities and the career development of its employees. It offers attractive internal and external training and further training programmes. Employees have the opportunity to use a variety of health, counselling, and prevention programmes. Bielefeld University places great importance on a work-family balance for all its employees. Bielefeld is a city of 325,000 inhabitants with all expected amenities and easy access to the Teutoburger Wald for hiking and other outdoor pursuits. It offers a high standard of living and is well connected to most major European cities

Application procedure

For full consideration, please provide: (i) a letter of motivation including a statement of your research interests and skills and experience relevant to the position; (ii) a CV including publication list; (iii) names and contact details of two referees willing to write confidential letters of recommendation. Your application should be sent by email (a single PDF) Klaus.Reinhold@uni-bielefeld.de by the 21st of December 2019. The interviews will take place early in 2020. Further information on Bielefeld University can be found on our homepage at www.uni-bielefeld.de. Please note that the possibility of privacy breaches and unauthorized access by third parties cannot be excluded when communicating via unencrypted e-mail. Information on the processing of personal data is available