

Department of Ecology and Evolution, University of Lausanne, Switzerland.

Postdoctoral position in Biostatistics / Macroecology (16893)

Introduction

UNIL is a leading international teaching and research institution, with over 5,000 employees and 15,500 students split between its Dorigny campus, CHUV and Epalinges. As an employer, UNIL encourages excellence, individual recognition and responsibility.

Increased international trade and human movement, particularly since the Industrial Revolution, have resulted in the accidental movement of species worldwide at an unprecedented scale. Even though it has been recognized for a long time that humans introduce invasive species, invasion biologists have mostly focussed on the role of factors directly linked to the biology of organisms rather than human-mediated dispersal. Understanding how globalization affects the accidental transport of invasive species is urgent, because biological theory alone cannot explain current invasions, or predict those likely to happen in the future. Insects represent an ideal system for studying drivers of invasions because they are a diverse yet biologically coherent group of species, which have been almost exclusively introduced as an unintended consequence of the globalization of trade and travel. There are more than 1 million described species of insects worldwide. About 80% of all animal species are insects and invasive insect species outnumber all other invasive animal species together. Insects are ecologically extremely successful and diverse. Yet, despite their obvious importance as invaders, non-native insects have received disproportionately less attention by invasion biologists compared to other taxonomic groups and broad-scale assessments of the socioeconomic drivers of historical insect invasions are still lacking.

The aim of this postdoc is to use spatial statistics and modelling to explore the impact of past human history on the spatial patterns of establishment of invasive species. In particular, we will focus on detecting the fingerprints of past colonialism, the East-West divide and modern trade blocks.

Presentation

The Group of Prof. Cleo Bertelsmeier is proposing a **Postdoctoral (Premier Assistant) position in Biostatistics/ Macroecology** at the Department of Ecology and Evolution, University of Lausanne, Switzerland. The postdoc will join a dynamic team working mainly on biological invasions and insect ecology. For more information, see <https://wp.unil.ch/bertelsmeiergroup/>

References

Bertelsmeier et al. (2018) Recurrent bridgehead effects accelerate global alien ant spread. PNAS.
Bertelsmeier et al. (2017) Recent human history governs global ant invasion dynamics. Nature Ecology & Evolution.
Gippet et al. (2019) Human-mediated dispersal in insects. Current Opinion in Insect Science.

Job information

Expected start date in position : 01/06/2021 or to be agreed
Contract length : 1 year, renewable depending on funding availability
Activity rate : 100%
Workplace : Lausanne-Dorigny

Your responsibilities

Most of his/her time will be dedicated to research, but a contribution to teaching is expected, including the possibility of supervising master students. The job description stipulates:

70% Personal research
25% Participation in teaching activities and master student supervision
5% Maintenance of lab equipment or other institutional tasks.

Your qualifications

We are looking for a creative and passionate Postdoc who is a good team player with excellent communication skills and likes to discuss and exchange ideas. You should have (or be expected to obtain in the near future) a PhD in biostatistics, macroecology or a related field, knowledge of statistics and programming, willingness for interdisciplinary collaboration and interest in economics and trade.

What the position offers you

We offer a nice working place in a multicultural, diversified and dynamic academic environment, collaboration with a young and dynamic scientific team, opportunities for professional training, a lot of activities and other benefits to discover.

Department of Ecology and Evolution (DEE), University of Lausanne, Switzerland.

The DEE hosts research groups working on a broad range of topics, producing a rich intellectual and social life. Although French is the common language in Lausanne region, the department research activities and seminars are conducted in English. The campus is located on the shore of the Geneva Lake, with the view on the Alps. Our department has a long track record of excellence in research. It comprises 14 professors and 5 young independent group leaders. The DEE hosts an average of 40 postdocs and 50 PhD students. Members of the department regularly publish in top ranking journals. Interaction among the different research groups is a priority, with two weekly seminars and many weekly journal clubs. The DEE expertise is well recognized and this has led previous students, PhD students or postdocs of the DEE to be employed in academic or non-academic positions within Switzerland and outside Switzerland.

Contact for further information

For further information please contact Prof. Bertelsmeier: cleo.bertelsmeier@unil.ch

Your application

Deadline : **01.03.2021**

Formal applications should include:

- a cover letter detailing your research interests, experience and motivation for applying;
- your CV;
- the names and contact details of two or three referees.

To receive full consideration, application documents should be uploaded online through the University of Lausanne recruitment platform.

Review of applications will begin immediately.

We thank you for your understanding.

Additional information

UNIL is committed to equal opportunities and diversity.

www.unil.ch/egalite

UNIL supports early career researchers.

www.unil.ch/graduatecampus