



# Norway

## grants

### **Post-doctoral position in an international research project (cognitive and social basis of religion)**

#### **Offer Description**

One two-and-a-half-year post-doctoral scholarship position in an international research project seeking to use agent-based modelling to simulate aspects of secularisation. The project - Religion, Ideology and Prosociality: Simulating Secularising Societies - is funded by Norwegian Funds and the Polish National Science Centre and is headed by Konrad Talmont-Kaminski (Bialystok, Poland) and LeRon Shults (Kristiansand, Norway). The project seeks to develop computer models of key aspects of secularization on the basis of empirical studies in psychology and sociology. The scholarship recipient will be responsible for conceptualizing and designing particular models in cooperation with the project leaders and other team members, as well as coauthoring the resulting publications.

#### **Skills/Qualifications**

The project requires candidates who have a thorough understanding of the cognitive and social processes that underpin religious beliefs and behaviours and that will be able to work together with an international team of researchers to conceptualise and develop agent-based models that explore aspects of how religions, as well as secular ideologies, function in secularising societies.

#### **Specific Requirements**

A strong record of recent publications in international journals on the cognitive, social and evolutionary basis of religious beliefs and behaviours.

Ability to synthesise existing theories and empirical data to assist in constructing the models to be prepared by the project.

Willingness and ability to learn the skills necessary to participate in the computer modelling parts of the project.

Ability to function in an English-language research environment.

Ability to work well in a team of researchers.

Ability to reside in Bialystok, Poland, for the length of the scholarship.

Doctorate obtained within the last 7 years (plus 18 months for every child of female candidates).

#### **Benefits**

Two-and-a-half-year post-doctoral scholarship (120,000 PLN/year pre tax), travel funds for conference attendance and additional funding to cover learning how to model social processes.

#### **Eligibility criteria**

Candidates will be required to have either completed (within the last 7 years with an additional 18 months per child for female candidates) or be about to complete a doctorate. In



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the case of candidates who are about to complete their doctorate, they will not be able to begin the scholarship until they have obtained the doctorate. Scholarship holders will be required to spend the majority of their time in Bialystok.

### **Selection process**

Applications have to be received by 23:59, 19th of February, 2021 (Central European Time). The selection committee will select candidates it wants to meet and will carry out online interviews between the 22nd and 26th of February. The decision of the committee will be announced by the 1st of March. The preferred but negotiable starting date is 1st of April, 2021.

Applications should include a cover letter explaining the candidate's suitability for the position, curriculum vitae, copy of the PhD certificate, and such other documents as the candidate thinks will provide further evidence of their suitability. Applications should be sent to the project Principal Investigator, Konrad Talmont-Kaminski at: [k.talmont-kaminski@uwb.edu.pl](mailto:k.talmont-kaminski@uwb.edu.pl)

### **Additional comments**

All individuals interested in applying are requested to contact the PI prior to sending in their applications in order to discuss how they could fit into the research team, and should be ready to be interviewed (via the internet) by the selection committee in the period between the 22nd and the 26th of February.