



# Norway

## grants

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

#### **Offer Description**

One post-doctoral 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 selected candidate 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 employment.

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

#### **Benefits**

Employment in the post-doctoral position (~8,000 PLN/month pre tax; ~6,000 PLN net/month) till the end of project (August 2023), travel funds for conference attendance and additional funding to cover learning how to model social processes.

#### **Eligibility criteria**

Candidates will be required to have completed a doctorate within the last 7 years, with an additional 18 months per child for female candidates. They may not have been employed at the University of Bialystok within the last two years. Selected candidate will be required to spend the majority of their time in Bialystok, may not be employed at the same time in any



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other project financed by the Polish National Science Centre, nor employed elsewhere on the basis of an employment contract (umowa o pracę).

### **Selection process**

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)

Applications have to be received by 23:59, 7th of October, 2021 (Central European Time). The selection committee will select candidates it wants to meet and will carry out online interviews between the 7th and 14th of October. The decision of the committee will be announced by the 15th of October. The estimated but negotiable starting date is 1st of December, 2021.

### **Additional comments**

All individuals interested in applying are requested to contact the PI (Konrad Talmont-Kaminski at: [k.talmont-kaminski@uwb.edu.pl](mailto:k.talmont-kaminski@uwb.edu.pl)) 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 7th and 14th of October.

Additional information about the project can be found on the Society & Cognition Unit website:

<https://scu.uwb.edu.pl/religion-ideology-prosociality-simulating-secularising-societies/>