

## Candidate for a predoctoral Joan Oró (FI AGAUR 2024) fellowship in the context of the HEurope project GreenME

**Barcelona Lab for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability (ICTA-UAB)**

**PhD supervisors:** Dr. Margarita Triguero-Mas & Dr. Helen V.S. Cole

### **Brief summary:**

The Barcelona Lab for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability (BCNUEJ) is part of the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA) at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB). The BCNUEJ is an interdisciplinary, feminist and caring research group, aiming to contribute to just, sustainable and healthy cities.

We build on urban planning, public health, public policy, urban geography, and urban and environmental sociology, to analyze the extent to which urban plans and policy decisions contribute (or not) to healthy and sustainable cities for all. To do so, we focus on putting the needs of underprivileged residents at the center of our research. Our research is organized in different research lines, and in this case we are looking for a researcher to join the “Urban environment, health and equity” line.

BCNUEJ is looking for a candidate to apply for a Joan Oró (FI-AGAUR 2024) PhD fellowship within the context of the HEurope funded project GreenME. The project seeks to improve adult mental health and wellbeing equity in Europe focusing on exposure to nature through funding from the European Union’s Horizon Europe research and innovation programme.

**Location:** Barcelona (Spain), presential in Barcelona

### **What we are looking for:**

GreenME (Advancing Greencare in Europe: an integrated multi-scalar approach for the expansion of nature-based therapies to improve Mental health Equity) is a new generation research project: It is driven by a transdisciplinary approach to research and knowledge generation, relies on mixed-methods study designs, and is based on knowledge co-creation processes.

### Specific GreenME objectives:

- To develop a comprehensive understanding of the current state of nature-based therapy (with their integration or not in healthcare systems) and green care in different study European regions
- To provide new strong evidence on the degree to which and how specific nature-based therapies (and green care broadly) benefit mental health and wellbeing
- To empower green care actors to ensure the scaling-up of green care and its integration in healthcare systems.

### Research Methods

Among others, GreenME will include interviews to different green care stakeholders, and semi-experimental studies and cross-sectional studies designed to evaluate the associations between exposure to nature (including biodiversity) and adults’ mental health, with a particular focus on evaluating the potential differences on these associations by gender.

### GreenME Team

GreenME project is coordinated by Dr. Helen VS Cole and Dr. Margarita Triguero-Mas from BCNUEJ. The project includes around 20 consortium partners in all Europe and the US and will start in September 2023 and last four years. GreenME consortium partners have complementary experience in different disciplines linked to the development of green care solutions; epidemiological, cost-effective and socio-ecological analyses; governance, legal and policy issues and communication/dissemination. In addition to research groups, different types of public, private, and civic entities also participate in GreenME: universities, research institutions, Small-Medium Enterprises, non-profit organizations and municipal administrations.

### Candidate:

We are seeking a candidate to apply for a Joan Oró (FI-AGAUR 2024) PhD fellowship within the context of a HEurope funded project (GreenME) to join our young, dynamic and active team within the GreenME project at BCNUEJ. The specific dissertation topic can be proposed, designed and developed by the candidate, based on the prospective available data in GreenME (i.e. using datasets and expertise available in GreenME consortium). The candidate will be supervised and work with both GreenME project coordinators. The candidate will be expected to collect data in the context of GreenME project for the development of the PhD.

Diverse candidacies are encouraged across gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age, nationality, sexual orientation, and physical abilities.

### Key responsibilities:

- Preparation of the project proposal to be submitted as part of the fellowship application (expected submission date: October-November 2023).
- Development of own PhD dissertation: study designs, protocol preparation, ethical proposals, data collection, data analyses, manuscripts preparation.

### Eligibility criteria:

- Candidates must have the equivalent of a Bachelor's degree and official Master degree (300 ECTS in relevant Degrees), with high grades
- Motivation to work as part of interdisciplinary teams and to engage in intersectoral work
- Advanced English level, written as well as oral (C1 expected)
- Willingness to participate in consortium training events, dissemination and knowledge co-production, transfer and outreach activities
- We will also evaluate as desirable (but not mandatory) criteria:
  - Strong academic record in health sciences (psychology, medicine, public health, biomedical sciences or similar). Environmental, social scientists or similar may apply as long as they have a strong interest on getting formal training on public health, epidemiology and biostatistics during their PhD.
  - Strong organizational skills
  - Good team member and collaborator
  - Experience and training on interdisciplinary projects
  - Individual research leadership skills and abilities
  - Autonomy
  - High learning capacity across disciplines
  - Problem resolution
  - Knowledge and experience in performing interviews and qualitative data analyses, also in performing advanced statistical analyses and geographic analyses
  - Published articles in scientific journals is a plus
  - Experience in disseminating and sharing knowledge with scientific and non-scientific community through meetings, conferences and media
  - Advanced Catalan and Spanish level are highly desirable

### What do we offer:

- Duration : 3 years (potentially 4 years if UAB regulations allow)
- Starting date: Spring/Summer 2024 (according to fellowship resolution timeline)
- Contract: Full time
- Salary Range: Established by the FI-AGAUR fellowships
- An exciting, young, transdisciplinary and international research environment with ample opportunities for exchange with scholars from related disciplines and learn from others at the universities and research institutes in the BCNUEJ, ICTA-UAB and associated project consortium, including local partner organizations and local stakeholders.
- Broad training, networking, and professional opportunities through the workshops and other events supervisors, institutions or/and consortium members organize and are invited to.
- BCNUEJ is a cutting-edge research group with a strong approach to science for community action and empowerment. BCNUEJ is recognized as a consolidated research group (SGR) by the Catalan Agency for Management of University and Research Grants (AGAUR) and ICTA-UAB is accredited with the Maria de Maeztu distinction (2020-2024), a seal of excellence of the Spanish Science Ministry.

### Expressions of interest:

If you are interested, please, send the following information at [margarita.triguero@uab.cat](mailto:margarita.triguero@uab.cat) by **31st July 2023 at 23:59pm (CEST)**:

- Motivation letter (including what would you like to focus on as part of your thesis dissertation)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Writing sample such as a student's paper or master thesis (ideally in English)
- Contact details of two referees (no recommendation letter)
- Copy of highest diploma. The minimum requirement is a diploma qualifying for doctoral studies in Spain (e.g. Master degree), but students in their last year may apply as long as they will be graduated by end of September 2023.

*Only the applications submitted through the email stated above will be considered.  
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.*