

2 Postdoctoral & 2 PhD positions on new ERC project IMBRACE

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Applications are invited for two ERC (European Research Council) funded **postdoctoral fellowships (4 and 5 years)** and two **4-year doctoral fellowships**, under the supervision of Dr. Panagiota Kotsila, as part of the 2 Million Euros ERC-CoG project *IMBRACE: Embracing Immigrant Knowledges for Just Climate Health Adaptation*.

The successful applicants will become core members of the IMBRACE team (which will include the Principal Investigator, 3 postdoctoral researchers, 2 PhD students, a Research Assistant, and a Communication Assistant), will be based at ICTA-UAB and work within the Barcelona Lab for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability group ([BCNUEJ](#)). Candidates are expected to live and work in the Barcelona area.

2 Postdoctoral positions

Offer description - summary

- Two postdoctoral positions at ICTA-UAB
- 4 or 5 year contract depending on the position, with a 6 month probational period.
- Salary: 35.000€ gross annual salary
- Starting date: Sept 2024 – March 2025

Requirements

Both positions require a PhD in human geography, political ecology, medical anthropology, urban studies, or related fields, with a strong background in environmental and/or health justice. Previous work with immigrants or racialized communities will be considered a plus. Expertise in systematic literature review methodology and participatory research methodologies will also be highly valued.

We seek candidates with a track record of research publications in high quality international academic journals and press, with a strong commitment to collaborative, supportive, inclusive and equity-based work ethics.

For both positions, excellent knowledge of English is required. Knowledge of German or French language will be highly valued. Knowledge of Spanish or Catalan will be valued.

Job description

The postdoctoral researchers will participate at a senior level in the project's conceptual and analytical development (see abstract below), co-supervise doctoral students, and contribute to coordinating the implementation of the project's core outcomes.

Postdoctoral research will include qualitative and participatory research methods, including participatory photography (Photovoice), Body Maps, and Climate Relief Maps, and in-depth

interviews, as well as qualitative systematic literature reviews, to explore how climate-related health vulnerabilities intersect with immigration in at-risk urban areas, and how embodied knowledges and situated practices of immigrants can inform adaptation to climate related risks (see project abstract below). Successful candidates will be fully supported in their fieldwork expenses, and travel to conferences and other related events.

Specifically, for position 1 (5 years), research will focus on the impacts of heatwaves/extended heat, while for position 2 (4 years) research will focus on the impacts of flooding/extreme precipitation on health and well-being. The theme of vector-borne and water-borne disease transmission will be common and transversal for both PhDs. For each position, a 3- to 6-month fieldwork will be conducted in one of the project's case studies (Barcelona, Athens, Dublin, Berlin, Antwerp, Marseilles). Last, selected candidates will lead the development of social vulnerability indicators, and the organization of knowledge co-production and dissemination events engaging a transdisciplinary taskforce of experts.

We encourage applications from women researchers, and researchers from under-represented backgrounds.

Deadline for applications: April 26th 2024

Interviews: 3rd week of May 2024

Start date: Sept 2024 – March 2025

Salary: Approximately €35,000 per year

How to apply

Please submit your CV, transcripts from previous degrees, and a motivation letter to PI Panagiota Kotsila (panagiota.kotsila@uab.cat) by April 26th 2024, 23:59 CET. The subject of your email should be: "Application for a postdoctoral position on Urban Climate Justice". The motivation letter should have a of maximum 1000 words.

Online interviews of shortlisted candidates will be held during the third week of May 2024. Shortlisted candidates will be asked for two reference letters.

2 PhD positions

Offer description - summary

- Two PhD positions at ICTA-UAB
- 4-year contracts
- Salary: 20.000€ gross annual salary
- Starting date: Oct 2024

Requirements

Both PhD positions require a first-class BSc and MSc degree (by Sept 2024) are required, in the fields of Environmental Studies, Public Health, Political Ecology, Urban Studies, Migration Studies, or related fields, with a strong interest and background in Environmental and Climate justice. Previous work with immigrants or otherwise racialized communities will

be considered a plus. Knowledge of methods such as literature review, interviews, focus-group discussions, participatory and visual methodologies will be highly valued.

We seek outstanding candidates with a strong academic background, willingness to work in an interdisciplinary vibrant environment and conduct in depth research in cities in Europe, and a strong commitment to collaborative, supportive, inclusive and equity-based work ethics.

For both positions, excellent knowledge of English is required. Knowledge of German or French language will be highly valued. Knowledge of Spanish or Catalan will be valued.

Job description

PhD research will include working with qualitative and participatory research methods, including participatory photography (Photovoice), Body Maps, and Climate Relief Maps, and in-depth interviews, to explore how climate-related health vulnerabilities intersect with immigration in at-risk urban areas, and how embodied knowledges and situated practices of immigrants can inform adaptation to climate related risks (see project abstract below).

Specifically, for PhD 1, research will focus on the impacts of heatwaves/extended heat, while for PhD 2 on the impacts of flooding/extreme precipitation, on health and well-being. The theme of vector-borne and water-borne disease transmission will be common and transversal for both PhDs.

For each position, a 3- to 6-month fieldwork will be conducted in two of the project's case studies (Barcelona, Athens, Dublin, Berlin, Antwerp, Marseilles). Selected candidates will work closely and collaborate with other team members to develop social (health) vulnerability indicators, organize knowledge co-production and dissemination events, and produce audio-visual materials for dissemination of results.

Successful candidates will enroll to ICTA's excellent [PhD program in Environmental Science and Technology](#), and will be fully supported in their fieldwork expenses, and travel to conferences and other related events.

We encourage applications from women researchers, and researchers from under-represented backgrounds.

Deadline for applications: April 26th 2024

Interviews: 3rd week of May 2024

Start date: Oct 2024

Salary: Approximately €20,000 per year

How to apply

Please submit your CV, transcripts from previous degrees, and a motivation letter where you state why you are interested and what experience you have to address the various aspects of the project, to PI Panagiota Kotsila (panagiota.kotsila@uab.cat) by April 26th 2024, 23:59 CET. The subject of your email should be: "Application for a PhD position on Urban Climate Justice". The motivation letter should have a maximum of 1000 words.

Online interviews of shortlisted candidates will be held during the third week of May 2024. Shortlisted candidates will be asked for two reference letters.

IMBRACE Project Abstract

Climate change, human health and immigration are arguably the most prominent, enduring, and challenging issues of our times, with important implications for justice. Studies on the nexus of these issues have largely focused on climate change as posing challenges to health and thus acting as a push-factor for migration. However, our understanding of how climate is impacting the health of immigrants in places of migration destination is still poor. Further limiting our understanding of potential climate and health injustices, immigrant communities in Europe are far from homogenous, and are often racialized groups of great ethnic diversity. In IMBRACE, we will examine what shapes immigrants' climate health vulnerability and how their situated knowledges and practices can inform both their own response capacities and urban climate adaptation more broadly, towards more effective and just approaches. We will focus on two types of climate impacts, chosen as most relevant for urban areas in Europe and with important implications for health: (a) increased and prolonged heat, and (b) intense rainfall and flooding. We will employ a **pioneering feminist political ecology** approach that combines participatory ethnography, critical discourse and policy analysis, and transdisciplinary knowledge production. Focusing on 6 case-study cities in Europe we will systematically explore tangible and intangible factors and structural drivers of immigrants' climate health vulnerability, centering and engaging with immigrants as expert knowledge-holders. Mobilizing knowledge that comes with and through immigration, we will offer an intersectional justice perspective that considers class, gender, race, ethnicity, and other axes of power and oppression when designing and assessing urban climate and health adaptation policy. This novel, comparative, and in-depth study will open new paths for research at the nexus of climate, health, and immigration, leading to a shift in how we conceptualize and research climate justice.

Please also see this publication as reference:

Kotsila, Panagiota. "9. Immigrant communities in Europe as situated knowledge holders for postcolonial and feminist urban adaptation to climate health risks". *Urban Movements and Climate Change: Loss, Damage and Radical Adaptation*, edited by Marco Armiero, Salvatore Paolo Rosa and Ethemcan Turhan, Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2023, pp. 183-206. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9789048554805-012>

Many thanks in advance for your interest,