

Two PhD Scholarships and One Postdoctoral Scholarship on Migrants' Social Protection Strategies

Université de Liège (Belgium), Faculty of Social Sciences (FaSS), Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies (CEDEM)

Applications are invited for scholarships to work at doctoral and post-doctoral level as part of the *Migration, Transnationalism and Social Protection in (post-)crisis Europe* project (MiTSoPro).

Application deadline: 4 June 2018.

Start date: September 2018

Positions:

- Two doctoral positions: full-time, fixed-term position available for 3 years (with possible extension)
- One post-doctoral position: full-time, fixed-term position available for 3 years

About the MiTSoPro ERC Starting grant project

Migration, Transnationalism and Social Protection in (post-)crisis Europe (MiTSoPro) is a project financed by the European Research Council Starting Grant No. 680014 (2016-2021) awarded to Dr. Jean-Michel Lafleur, Associate Director of the Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies (CEDEM) at the University of Liège. MiTSoPro articulates social policy and migration studies' approaches to 'transnational social protection' defined as migrants' cross-border strategies to cope with social risks - such as health, unemployment or old-age. It examines their entitlements to host and home public welfare policies as well as market-, family- and community-based practices.

This study combines large-N analysis of social protection policies and programs that home and host countries make accessible to immigrants and emigrants (EU-28 + 12 non-EU countries) with multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork to qualitatively assess the informal social protection strategies used by migrants and examine their interaction with formal host and home state social protection provisions.

Research Environment

The Faculty of Social Sciences (FaSS) of the University of Liège is a small and dynamic faculty committed to the development of research that spans beyond Belgian borders, as shown by its two ERC grants and its involvement in numerous FP and Horizon 2020 research projects. Researchers hired to work on the MiTSoPro project will be part of its Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies (CEDEM), one of Belgium's pioneering and leading research centres in the field of migration and a founding-member of the IMISCOE Research Network. Beyond their involvement in MiTSoPro, researchers will be expected to participate in the intellectual life of FaSS and CEDEM and teach within the Master Degree in Immigration Studies (in English) organized jointly with Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona).

Vacancy 1: Two PhD Scholarships on Migrants' Social Protection Strategies

Position: Two PhD scholarships: full-time, fixed-term of 3 years (with possible extension)

Subproject summary:

The MiTSoPro project involves conducting multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork with migrants, their family members and other state and non-state actors involved in migrants' access to social protection in the home and host country. Under the guidance of the Principal Investigator, the doctoral students will collect and analyse a large amount of qualitative data that will be used for the MiTSoPro project. The doctoral candidates will also be able to use the collected data for their PhD dissertations, which should be on a topic of the candidates' choice that is directly related to the MiTSoPro project. In addition, parts of the data collected by individual researchers will be merged with other researchers' data for comparative purposes.

Tasks expected from the PhD candidate:

- Spend extensive periods of time conducting fieldwork in several European cities and possibly one non-European city.
- Write and complete a PhD dissertation on a question directly related to this topic
- Participate in the political & social sciences Ph.D. programme at ULiège and in the intellectual life of FaSS and CEDEM (including teaching)
- Submit for publication a minimum of two articles or book chapters
- Present research results in international conferences
- Participate in administrative tasks related to the project (reporting, conference organization, etc.)

All work would be done in close consultation with the Principal Investigator and other members of the MiTSoPro project team.

Profile Needed:

- MA in Social Sciences (e.g., Sociology, Social Policy, Anthropology, Political Science)
- Experience conducting ethnographic fieldwork (e.g., MA thesis)
- Specialty in social policy and/or migration is an asset
- Language skills: English plus (at least) one of the following: Arabic, French, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian or Spanish
- Ability and interest to work in a team

What we offer:

- Attractive scholarship
- Resources to conduct fieldwork and participate in conferences and summer schools
- Opportunities to train and develop new skills
- A stimulating and international research environment located a train ride away from Brussels, Paris, London, Cologne and Maastricht

How to apply?

The selection process occurs in 2 steps.

Applications must be submitted electronically in English to mitsopro@uliege.be (with a copy to JM.Lafleur@uliege.be) by 4 June 2018 with the message titled, 'MiTSopro_PhD'. The following documents must be attached to the e-mail in two separate PDF files:

1) In the first file, named 'Motivation_applicant's last name':

- A motivation letter (maximum 800 words);
- A CV with detailed information on degree results and language skills;
- The names and contact details of two references

2) In the second file, named 'Sample_applicant's last name':

- one writing sample (e.g., essay or MA thesis chapter) in English or French demonstrating the applicant's ability to conduct ethnographic fieldwork, relevant analytical capacities and methodological rigor (single-spaced, maximum 10,000 words. If a thesis, please indicate which chapter should be reviewed)

Short-listed candidates will be interviewed in person at ULiège or remotely via Skype at the end of June 2018. The interview will be based on their scientific track-record and a short research proposal that they will be asked to submit by 20 June 2018 (single-spaced, maximum 3,000 words). The proposal should consist of a PhD dissertation proposal connected to the theme of migrants' social protection strategies. It should include information on methods, possible theoretical developments, and relevant literature.

Final results will be notified by 7 July 2018. The successful nominee would be expected to start in September 2018.

For more information, please contact the MiTSopro team: Email: mitsopro@uliege.be
<http://labos.ulg.ac.be/socialprotection>

Vacancy 2: One Postdoctoral Scholarship on Migrants' Social Protection Strategies

Position: One postdoctoral position: full-time, fixed-term position available for 3 years

Subproject summary:

The MiTSoPro project involves conducting multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork with migrants, their family members and other state and non-state actors involved in immigrants' access to social protection in the home and host country. Together with the Principal Investigator, the post-doctoral researcher will build a comparative methodological framework appropriate for multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork. In addition, the postdoctoral researcher will collect and analyse a large amount of qualitative data in different cities as well as offer guidance and support to doctoral candidates involved in the project. Parts of the data collected by individual researchers will be merged with that of other researchers for comparative purposes. Overall, the subproject aims to contribute qualitatively to a better understanding of the articulation between formal and informal social protection strategies and how they materialize across borders.

Tasks expected from the Post-doctoral candidate:

- Together with the Principal Investigator, design and supervise the data collection process for the multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork
- Spend extensive periods of time conducting fieldwork in several European cities and possibly one non-European city.
- Contribute to the conceptual and theoretical framework of the project
- Participate in the academic life of the university as well as teach in the Masters programme in Immigration Studies
- Publish a minimum of three articles or book chapters
- Present research results in international conferences
- Participate in administrative tasks related to the project

All work would be done in close consultation with the Principal Investigator and other members of the MiTSoPro project team.

Profile Needed:

- PhD in the Social Sciences (e.g., Sociology, Social Policy, Anthropology, Political Science)
- Experience conducting ethnographic fieldwork at the doctoral level
- Research experience in social policy and/or migration is an asset
- The applicant must have obtained a doctoral degree within the last eight years (parents can add one additional year per child) or be in a position to obtain a doctoral degree before 1 November 2018.
- 2 published articles in international peer-reviewed journals
- Language skills: English plus (at least) one of the following: Arabic, French, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian or Spanish
- Ability and interest to work in a team
- The applicant must not have resided/been employed/been a student in Belgium for more than 24 months during the 3 years before the start of the postdoctoral contract

What we offer:

- Attractive scholarship
- Resources to conduct fieldwork in different cities, publish and participate in conferences
- Opportunities to train and develop new skills
- Possibility to teach in English within the Master in Immigration Studies
- A stimulating and international research environment located a train ride away from Brussels, Paris, London, Cologne and Maastricht

How to apply?

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1) In the first file, named 'Motivation_applicant's last name':

- A motivation letter (maximum 800 words)
- A CV with detailed information on degree results, publications, research experience and language skills
- A copy of the PhD dissertation if available
- The names and contact details of two references

2) In the second file, named 'Sample_applicant's last name':

- One writing sample (e.g. article, book chapter or chapter of PhD thesis) in English or French showing her/his methodological rigor, ability to conduct ethnographic fieldwork and relevant analytical capacities (single-spaced, maximum 10,000 words)

Short listed candidates will also be asked to submit a short research proposal by 20 June 2018 (single-spaced, maximum 3,000 words). The proposal should outline the research strategy that the candidate would use to conduct ethnographic fieldwork exploring migrants' formal and informal social protection strategies. It should include information on methods, possible theoretical developments, and relevant literature. They will also be invited to participate in an interview in person at ULiège or remotely via Skype at the end of June 2018, which will discuss their scientific track-record and the research proposal.

Final results will be notified by 7 July 2018. The successful nominee would be expected to start in September 2018.

For more information, please contact the MiTSopro team: Email: mitsopro@uliege.be
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