

**Doctoral Research Fellowship in Speciation Genetics** A PhD position is available at the Department of Biosciences (IBV), Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, University of Oslo (UiO). The PhD project is part of a larger research program on the 'Evolvability of genomic architecture during hybrid speciation'. Far from being an evolutionary dead end, hybridization may even generate lineages that can speciate even under the most constraining of conditions. The Italian sparrow (*Passer italiae*) is the first documented case of hybrid speciation in birds (Hermansen et al. 2011). This hybrid species originated from past events of hybridization between two divergent parental species, the house sparrow (*P. domesticus*) and the Spanish sparrow (*P. hispaniolensis*) some thousands of years ago. The Italian sparrow is both phenotypically and genetically variable across the Italian peninsula and its genome is a composite mosaic of DNA from both parentspecies' genomes. But little is known about the consequences of such major genomic rearrangements on the evolutionary potential of hybrid species and how hybridization in general may favor novel evolutionary trajectories. This project integrates ecological and molecular approaches to develop an understanding of the evolution of genomic architecture during hybridization events and its evolutionary implications, using the Italian sparrow as the model system. The successful candidate will be allowed to choose aspects of the evolutionary genetics and genomics of the larger study as best fits her/his skills and research interests. She/he will also be encouraged to develop additional, complementary avenues of research. Interested candidates should have a Master degree or equivalent in a relevant field of biology, such as in genetics, genomics and/or bioinformatics. Documented knowledge in evolutionary biology is required. A good command of English and laboratory experience is likewise required. In addition, a special interest in the field of speciation and previous fieldwork or bird handling experience would be advantageous. The position is affiliated with the Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Synthesis (CEES), and research will be conducted in close collaboration with Prof. Saetre and his group at CEES. The research team will also include other scientists from Norway, the US and Switzerland. The working language will be English. Fieldwork may be conducted at a variety of locations, including Norway, Italy and other Mediterranean countries. The appointment is for 3 years, but may be extended to 4 years conditional on 25% teaching obligations and approval from the Department of Biosciences. Candidates interested in a 4-year position should state so, in which case previous teaching experience would be considered a merit.

**Application deadline: October 31st**

Expected starting date: January-February 2015 Informal enquiries can be made to Fabrice Eroukhmanoff and Glenn-Peter Saetre:

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For more information and how to apply:

<http://uio.easycruit.com/vacancy/1271569/96323?iso=no>

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