

Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology Department of Primatology

We are offering a two years European Research Council funded post-doc fellowship with a possible two years extension working on specific aspects of a larger project that examines social bonding and social cognition capacities in chimpanzees.

Our general interest is to understand the relationship between social bonds and social cognition during development as well as within adults. Successful candidates will be expected to use observational, hormonal and experimental approaches, and to have extensive stays in Africa to collect data either on wild chimpanzees of the Taï Chimpanzee Project, Taï NP (Côte d'Ivoire) or in African sanctuaries.

Qualifications and Requirements PhD, or comparable degree, in Biology, Psychology or Evolutionary Anthropology and good knowledge of animal behaviour and animal cognition. We are looking for applicants with experience in at least two of the following areas:

1. Proficiency in field observations and collecting behavioural data on social mammals.
2. Expertise in conducting field experiments such as playbacks or similar controlled behavioral tests, preferably with primates.
3. Expertise in non-invasive hormone sampling and analyses.
4. Excellent statistical and analytical skills with experience in handling large data sets.
5. Experience in working and living under harsh conditions in remote areas.

The successful applicant would speak fluent English, with fluent French being an additional advantage, be resistant to physical and psychological stress, have strong Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology Department of Primatology social skills, enjoy collaborative work and be able to work and live in an intercultural environment.

Salary and Funding Supported by a German public service post-doctoral salary (2+2 years).

Start and Term of Appointment Starting April 2016, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Comments Applications should be sent by email and should include a cover letter stating research experience and interest, detailed curriculum vitae, a 1-2 page proposal/outline of a research topic that interests you within the research domain described above, and the names and e-mail addresses of three referees. Application deadline is 19th February or until position is filled thereafter.

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