

## VACANCY

Opening for 3 Post-doctoral research positions each starting on November 2017, of which 2 positions will be held at the Centre for Development and Environment of the University of Bern (Switzerland) for a period of 36 months each and one position at the School of Agricultural Policy and Development of the University of Reading (United Kingdom) for a period of 42 months, within the ERC Consolidator Grant funded project “Indigenous Communities, Land Use and tropical Deforestation” (INCLUDE).

### Three Post-Doctoral Positions

#### ABOUT THE PROJECT INCLUDE

Tropical deforestation is an important contributor to climate change, through the release of significant amounts of carbon in the atmosphere. The main proximate cause of deforestation is agricultural expansion, followed by resource extraction. This project looks at the problem of deforestation in the Argentinean dry Chaco in the province of Salta (the Chaco Salteño). The Chaco Salteño, part of the Great American Chaco (the second largest tropical forest in the American continent after the Amazon), experiences one of the fastest deforestation rates in the world (on average about 2 football fields per minute over 1970-2015), represents an important agricultural frontier (with over 6 million ha of forest left) and hosts significant ethnic and cultural diversity, including both ‘criollos’ (small scale livestock farmers of European descent) and indigenous peoples (IPs).

In the first year of the project, which started in November 2016, the involved researchers have been collecting information to understand the institutional context, with particular attention to the legal framework (both at federal and provincial level) regarding land use, deforestation, agriculture and IPs communal land rights. The post-doctoral researchers are expected to bring the work forward, by working on three macro-objectives (MOs). [includeproject.wordpress.com](http://includeproject.wordpress.com)

#### POST-DOC 1: CHARACTERIZING IPS LAND TENURE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES (MO1)

##### TASKS/NATURE OF THE JOB:

The objective here is to characterize, for an appropriate number of selected communities, the existing land tenure regime and the associated governance structure (i.e., who are the key stakeholders/actors involved). We anticipate the existence of different set of actors with conflicting interests. On one hand, there are actors who are directly affected by a certain configuration of land rights (e.g., IPs communities, criollos farmers, large-scale farmers). On the other hand, there are actors who have the ability to promote specific land rights configurations (e.g., public administrations, NGOs). We intend to adopt social network analysis (SNA) to identify pivotal actors and characterize the relationship between them. We will select communities in the departments of Rivadavia and San Martin in the province of Salta, where land tenure rights vary. Communities will be selected in order to ensure variability with respect to: 1) the degree to which IPs communal land rights are de-facto implemented and 2) the degree of deforestation. The main data collection phase is expected to take place over two consecutive years, starting in April 2018. Hypotheses to the governance of land tenure can be linked through SNA to power inequalities, instrumental ties, brokerage, leadership, polarization and conflict clusters. Coupled with other data this part of the project will address questions of deforestation as they are associated to governance and regulation regimes.

The main data collection is expected to take place over two consecutive years, commencing in April 2018. The post-doc expert will work in collaboration with researchers from MO2 and MO3 and will assist with identifying valid methods for

collecting and analysing relational data. They should be able to oversee local research assistants and contribute to their training. They are also expected to be familiar with mixed methods techniques so that they could effectively triangulate other types of data (ethnographic, qualitative, case study etc.) to the SNA analysis. As a rounded researcher, the post-doc expert should be accomplished (or demonstrate competence) in the development of data collection instruments and in the collection and analysis of data. During the first 18 months of this appointment the post holder is expected to focus on the collection of data and during the next 18 months in cleaning the data, analysing results and co-authoring academic papers.

Candidates from the social sciences, humanities and natural sciences with a demonstrable research interest in SNA methodologies are strongly encouraged to apply.

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#### SKILLS & COMPETENCES SOUGHT:

- Fluent in English and high competence in Spanish
- PhD in a relevant discipline awarded by the time of appointment.
- Competence with Social Network Analysis Methodologies.
- Competence in survey and research design.
- Competence in stakeholder analysis and the study of governance systems.
- Experience with data collection.
- Experience with data triangulation and mixed methods research designs.
- Familiarity with qualitative and case study methods.
- Ability to work with a large multi-disciplinary team of researchers.
- Willingness to participate in extensive data collection trips in North-West Argentina.
- Willingness to co-manage local team of assistants.
- Familiarity with working with diverse actors, including IPs, farmers and agri-business managers.
- Desirable: Competence in any of the local languages of the Grand Chaco (i.e. Wichi, Guarani).

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#### DETAILS

**Starting date:** November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

**Location:** CDE, University of Bern, Hallerstrasse 10, Bern, Switzerland; [www.cde.unibe.ch](http://www.cde.unibe.ch)

**Duration of employment:** 3 years

**Team:** A multi-disciplinary team of social science researchers.

**Offer:** Employment conditions and remuneration in accordance with the standards of the University of Bern, Switzerland

**For further information:** Please contact Dr. Graziano Ceddia ([graziano.ceddia@cde.unibe.ch](mailto:graziano.ceddia@cde.unibe.ch)) and/or Dr. Dimitris Christopoulos ([dimitris.christopoulos@modul.ac.at](mailto:dimitris.christopoulos@modul.ac.at)).

**Application deadline:** August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Application materials:** Please submit your application consisting of CV with certificates, a letter specifying how the specific job requirements are met and including the name of three referees as a single PDF file in English.

## POST-DOC 2: RESOURCE USE DECISION (MO3)

### TASKS/NATURE OF THE JOB:

The objective here is to characterise the decision processes associated with resource use and extraction of various actors. For IPs the relevant decision variable could be timber extraction (for which they are contracted by non-IPs actors); for criollos the relevant decision variable could be the heads of livestock; for agri-business the decision variable could be the acreage of crops and/or livestock heads. The idea is to explain the relevant decision variable through both individual-level explanatory variables (e.g., level of education, size of the household etc.) and contextual explanatory variables, like environmental gradients and network metrics associated with the prevailing governance structures (as determined in MO1). To this end, the use of quantitative methodologies (including econometrics) is foreseen. However, the specific conditions in the field may also warrant the use of more qualitative approaches (e.g., Q methodology, case studies, and comparative analysis). The main data collection phase is expected to take place over two consecutive years, starting in April 2018.

The post-doc will work in collaboration with researchers from MO1 and MO2 and is expected to take an active role in designing and organizing MO3 of the research project. This involves preparing and taking the lead in managing the fieldwork and the data collection process, including the supervision of local assistants, collaborating closely with the other staff working on the project, especially with the other post-doctoral researchers, analysing the data, writing scientific publications to be published in international peer-reviewed journals and reports.

During the first 18 months of this appointment, the post holder is expected to focus on the collection of data and during the next 18 months in cleaning the data, analysing results and co-authoring academic papers.

Candidates from the social sciences, humanities and natural sciences with a demonstrable research interest in SNA methodologies are strongly encouraged to apply.

### SKILLS & COMPETENCES SOUGHT:

- Fluent in Spanish and English
- PhD in a relevant discipline to be awarded by the time of appointment
- Competence quantitative methods, for instance (but not exclusively) econometric techniques, instrumental to the modelling of household decision in the context of agricultural expansion, forest degradation, timber extraction etc.
- Competence in survey and research design
- Experience in data collection
- Familiarity with qualitative methods (for instance Q, comparative methods etc.) and case study methods.
- Ability to work with a large multi-disciplinary team of researchers.
- Willingness to participate in two field trips (of up to six months each) in north-west Argentina.
- Willingness to co-manage local team of assistants.
- Familiarity with working with diverse actors, including IPs, farmers and agri-business managers.
- Desirable: Competence in any of the local languages of the Grand Chaco (i.e. Wichí, Guaraní).

### DETAILS

**Starting date:** November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

**Location:** CDE, University of Bern, Hallerstrasse 10, Bern, Switzerland; [www.cde.unibe.ch](http://www.cde.unibe.ch)

**Duration of employment:** 3 years

**Team:** A multi-disciplinary team of social science researchers.

**Offer:** Employment conditions and remuneration in accordance with the standards of the University of Bern, Switzerland

**For further information:** Please contact Dr. Graziano Ceddia ([graziano.ceddia@cde.unibe.ch](mailto:graziano.ceddia@cde.unibe.ch))

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## POST-DOC 3: CHARACTERIZING STAKEHOLDERS' ATTITUDES (MO2)

### TASKS/NATURE OF THE JOB:

The objectives here are a) to characterize the attitudes of the various actors towards the process of agricultural expansion and deforestation in the region and environmental degradation more in general; b) to evaluate the attitudes towards the existing land tenure regime and governance structures; c) to develop a conceptual framework that can be used in strategic planning. In particular, we believe that different stakeholders have diverging attitudes, with some (e.g., public administrations, agricultural producers' organizations etc.) more geared towards agricultural expansion. In order to characterise attitudes, structured qualitative research (e.g. Q-methodology) will be used in appropriately selected communities. Finally, a conceptual framework will be developed in order to facilitate strategic planning pertaining to suggestions put forward by the various stakeholders. The main data collection phase is expected to take place over two consecutive years, starting in April 2018.

The post holder will work in collaboration with researchers from MO1 and MO3. Their primary responsibility will be for research design and data collection, involving extensive periods of fieldwork in the Chaco Salteño. The data collection is envisaged to proceed from less to more structured qualitative research methods, with indigenous peoples, criollos, agricultural producers and political or administrative actors.

### SKILLS & COMPETENCE SOUGHT:

- Fluent in Spanish and English
- PhD in a relevant discipline awarded by the time of appointment.
- Experience and interest in qualitative and mixed research methods, including interviewing, Q method, questionnaires and anthropological research methods
- Familiarity with working with diverse actors, ideally including indigenous peoples, farmers and agri-business managers
- Interest in working with indigenous groups an advantage
- Desirable: Competence in any of the local languages of the Grand Chaco (i.e. Wichi, Guaraní).

### DETAILS

**Starting date:** November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

**Location:** School of Agricultural Policy and Development of the University of Reading (UK), [www.reading.ac.uk/apd/](http://www.reading.ac.uk/apd/)

**Duration of employment:** 42 month

**Team:** A multi-disciplinary team of social science researchers.

**Offer:** Competitive salary at the post-doc level in accordance with University Reading guidelines.

**For further information:** Please contact Dr. Graziano Ceddia ([graziano.ceddia@cde.unibe.ch](mailto:graziano.ceddia@cde.unibe.ch)) and/or Dr. Nicholas Bardsley ([n.o.bardsley@reading.ac.uk](mailto:n.o.bardsley@reading.ac.uk)).

**Application deadline:** August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

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