

At the University of Geneva, Switzerland, we have an open position for a

PhD candidate

Successful applicants will work in the research project ‘Transnational Ageing among Older Migrants and Natives: A Strategy to Overcome Vulnerability’ (TransAge)

Application deadline: 21 December 2018

Fixed-term position for 4 years

Job description

TransAge project

‘Transnational Ageing among Older Migrants and Natives: A Strategy to Overcome Vulnerability’ is a project financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation and led by Prof. Ruxandra Oana Ciobanu at the Centre for the Interdisciplinary Study of Gerontology and Vulnerability and the Institute of Demography and Socioeconomics, University of Geneva.

TransAge will develop a better understanding of transnational practices to overcome vulnerability in old age by doing an innovative comparison between older international migrants, internal migrants and natives. The project will use a mixed-methods research design.

Research activity

The research will focus on vulnerability in old age, and tease out the factors that contribute to it, the strategies to cope or overcome it, and the forms of transnationalism developed in old age.

These aspects will be studied using multi-local ethnographic research.

In-depth interviews will be conducted in Switzerland and in Italy with migrants and natives aged 65 and more. A mapping of institutions that mediate transnational practices will be done, as well as interviews with some of their representatives, and an analysis of media announcements targeting older foreign populations.

Requirements

The ideal candidate has the following profile:

- MA in Social sciences (e.g. Sociology, Socioeconomics, Social Policy, Social / Cultural Gerontology, Migration studies)
- We equally welcome applications from students who are about to defend their MA thesis

- Excellent knowledge of qualitative methodologies
- An interest in migration / mobility and gerontology
- Language skills: Italian (native or excellent command) and English; French is a plus
- Organisational and presentation skills
- Good writing skills
- Being interested to work in a team and in an interdisciplinary and international environment

Tasks expected from the PhD candidate

- Conduct fieldwork research in two cantons in Switzerland and in two regions in Italy
- Elaborate guidelines for qualitative interviews
- Write and complete a PhD thesis by articles on a research theme directly related to the research activity presented above
- Participate in administrative tasks in relation to the research project (e.g. conference organisation)
- Present research results in national and international conferences

Conditions of employment

- Start date: 1 March 2019 or soon thereafter. The start date can be delayed if the person will defend later on the MA thesis,
- Duration of employment: 4 years
- Place of work: University of Geneva
- Information on salary: <https://memento.unige.ch/doc/00056>

Application procedure

Applications should be sent by e-mail to Ruxandra Oana Ciobanu at oana.ciobanu@unige.ch by **21 December 2018**.

The title of the e-mail should be 'TransAge – PhD'.

The application should contain the following documents:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Motivation letter (1 page)
- Name and contact details of two references familiar with the applicant's academic work
- MA diploma and grades of MA programme
- Two writing examples: one theoretical piece and one based on qualitative data collection and analysis (e.g. MA thesis or available publication)

Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed in person in Geneva or via skype.

For more information, please contact Ruxandra Oana Ciobanu at oana.ciobanu@unige.ch.