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Full-stack web developer for COVID19 research project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (80%)

Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM)

The Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM) of Bern performs research in a range of disciplines relevant to public health (www.ispm.unibe.ch). Groups cut across divisions, facilitating an interdisciplinary approach to research in the fields of clinical epidemiology, social and behavioral health, biostatistics, and international and environmental health. The ISPM is highly reputed for its expertise in health effects of environmental exposures, the spread of infectious disease, and the health of vulnerable groups including children and the elderly.

Post Duration: 2 years

Salary: up to 85,100 CHF per annum including social security contributions (depending on qualifications)

Closing date: 15th September 2020

Starting date: 1st November 2020 (or earlier)

General Description:

The post is embedded in the project “A continuously updated meta-ecological study of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health, alcohol/substance abuse and violence in the general population” funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation.

The project is a continuously updated (“living”) systematic review of published studies about the impact of COVID19 pandemic and lockdown on mental health. The review process is crowdsourced.

The project will be implemented in a “living” and interactive web platform. All analyses will be conducted as a public notebook (for example R markdown format) on the studies included in the REDCap database in which the “crowd” extractors will enter the data online. All data and analyses will be open access and we will ensure reproducibility by making the code available in GitHub. The literature searches will be repeated on a weekly basis and any new studies will be incorporated in the REDCap database; this will automatically update the analysis by running R scripts producing the updated results. The subsequent report will be compiled semi-automatically and will be published online. For a preliminary version of the project’s website please see <https://esm-ispm-unibe.ch.github.io/covid19-mhsr/>

Details:

The successful candidate will build and maintain the platform for undertaking the project; build the tools for performing and reporting the systematic review and orchestrate the services for updating the database, user management, analysis and report. The post holder will also work on implementing original statistical models (developed by the team’s statisticians). Within a multidisciplinary and highly motivated environment, the post will provide the opportunity to the successful candidate to work in collaboration with various European research groups of evidence synthesis.



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Qualifications:

The successful candidate should have a postgraduate qualification in computer sciences or related disciplines (data sciences, mathematics, statistics, software engineering etc.) and professional experience as full-stack developer. Experience in building packages in R or python, web development and basic Linux sysadmin are essential. They should have experience or be willing to learn Shiny, REDCap and docker. Previous experience or training in basic statistics and fluency in English are required. Interest or experience in functional programming languages such as Haskell, Elm, purescript or similar will be of advantage. Experience working in a health-related field and understanding of public health problems are desirable but not essential.

Setting:

The post is in the [Evidence Synthesis Methods research team](#) and it is funded for two years by the Swiss National Science Foundation. The grant supports also conference and meetings attendance. Research supervision will be provided by Prof. Georgia Salanti and Dr. Theodoros Papakonstantinou. Applications should be in English and include a CV, contact details for two professional or academic referees and a cover letter with a personal statement (about half a page) describing your suitability and motivation.

For informal please contact georgia.salanti@ispm.unibe.ch or theodoros.papakonstantinou@ispm.unibe.ch

Please send your application in one PDF-file to Natalie Studer, hr@ispm.unibe.ch.