

## **1-year postdoc proposal:**

### **Institutional change to develop sanitation: specificities, historical perspectives and typologies**

Submission deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2017

#### **Context:**

The main purpose of this post doc is to develop a research program on institutional issues regarding sanitation for the developing world. It is proposed by the ParisTech “SUEZ - Water for All” Chair.

The ParisTech “SUEZ - Water for All” Chair aims to facilitate access to essential services in developing and emerging countries by reinforcing skills of operational leaders and managers of urban water and sanitation services. For years 2017 and 2018, it has allocated funds to develop a research program on sanitation.

The research fellow will be hosted by the research unit called « UMR G-EAU » (a gathering of researchers on water issues from 5 research and teaching institutions: AgroParisTech, CIRAD, IRD, Irstea, Montpellier SupAgro,). UMR G-EAU is based in Montpellier. UMR G-EAU is a leader on pluridisciplinary approaches and applied research on water and sanitation and hosts start-ups working on reuse.

For more details, see: <http://www.g-eau.net>.

The postdoctoral research fellow will work under the supervision of Dr Marine Colon (<http://www.agroparistech.fr/Marine-Colon.html>) at AgroParisTech / UMR G-EAU. The Montpellier centre of AgroParisTech is a leader in France in teaching on water and sanitation issues. The postdoctoral fellow will join a team of research working on water and sanitation from various perspectives and disciplines. He or she will be employed by AgroParisTech in Montpellier, and will have access to the network of researchers and water and sanitation experts.

#### **Objectives:**

The post doc will have two main missions: a literature review and scientific meetings' organisation.

##### 1/ Literature review

While some advances on access to water in low to middle income countries have been achieved, access to decent sanitation is still lagging. However, sanitation remains a major challenge facing urban areas. Water supply has always been in the spotlight and this includes research. Fewer papers are published on sanitation than on water issues. What would be a way forward to make research programs contribute to the development of sanitation?

There is a relative consensus nowadays that the lack of sanitation is not a lack of availability of technology, and that it is cost effective to invest on sanitation. Access to sanitation may still lag behind because it has more to do with a behavioural, socio, political and economic problem. This is why we believe that social sciences need to invest this topic.

Compared to water, cultural and institutional dimensions seem crucial to understand sanitation issues so that the sector may develop. Therefore, the development of sanitation may be analysed as a matter of institutional change: how to build the culture and institutional structure that favours the development of sanitation, from access to toilet facilities to proper treatment and release in the environment. Historical perspectives may be fruitful to understand how change occurred in developed countries (outside Western Europe where the history is already extensively known).

There is a lack of analytical framework and accumulation of knowledge on the topic. We need to review the state of the art so that to open new avenues of research on sanitation for social sciences.

The research fellow is expected to conduct a comprehensive literature review on how sanitation issues have been tackled by social scientist in disciplinary high level academic journal, sector-specific journals (published by IWA, WEDC) and grey literature by donor agencies, OECD, and NGOs. The review will at least cover main journals in managerial sciences, economics, sociology, political sciences and geography. It will also include previous attempts to cover this topic, such as the work of Black and Fawcett (2008). The review will be structured around types of research questions, theoretical frames, methodologies and main results. This literature review will include a review of case studies where institutional change has been observed. A typology of cases is expected, to orientate future empirical exploration. It will conclude by highlighting what areas of research need to be developed in the future, in relation to the mission of the Chair Water for All.

The expected outcomes are a literature review paper in a peer review journal and a detailed report with avenues of research.

## 2/ Organisation of scientific events

The research fellow is expected to organise 2 scientific events in relation with the scientific council of the Chaire and UMR G-EAU. The first will be held in Montpellier, the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2018. It will be a young researchers meeting aiming at selecting innovative works on sanitation in social sciences. The second meeting will be held in Paris, at the French Development Agency, the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2018, gathering high level scientists and professionals working on sanitation. It will be the 4<sup>th</sup> scientific meeting organised by the Chair Water for All.

## References:

Black Maggie, Fawcett Ben, 2008, "The Last Taboo, Opening the Door on the Global Sanitation Crisis", Earthscan, Oxon, 254p.

### **Work Plan and responsibilities:**

- literature review
- interviews with experts / senior researchers
- writing of report and paper
- organisation of a young social sciences' research fellow meeting on emerging fields of research for sanitation the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2018 in Montpellier
- organisation of a scientific meeting the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at French Development Agency in Paris
- regular meetings with scientific committee (around 4)

### **Profile:**

The candidate should have expertise and interest on sanitation, pluridisciplinary approaches and institutional analysis.

A PhD in Economics, Management Sciences is a plus, Sociology, Anthropology or Political Sciences may be acceptable. Experience working in Water and Sanitation is desired.

### **Qualifications**

- Strong writing skills
- Familiarity of methods for institutional analysis, and systemic approaches of a territory
- Familiarity of main qualitative et quantitative research methods
- Familiarity with bibliographical reference management software
- Good analytical skills
- Good relational abilities
- Good abilities to communicate and to popularize science
- Ability to speak and write working French and English
- Autonomy and organising skills

### **Knowledge and experience:**

- Clear understanding of developing country context
- Experience on water and sanitation appreciated
- Knowledge on institutional analysis from economical or sociological theories

**Benefits:** a minimum of 1 949 €/month - 12 months renewable 3 months (depending on experience)

### **Resources:**

An office, a computer, a budget, a library devoted to water and sanitation issues

**Contact:** [marine.colon@agroparistech.fr](mailto:marine.colon@agroparistech.fr)

**Submission:**

CV, 2 page cover letter that explains interest for the position, outlines relevant skills and experience, writing sample (recent publication or dissertation chapter), proposal, 2 recommendation letters, past experience of research or operational work in Africa or Asia appreciated

**Schedule for recruitment:**

Call for interest: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Deadline for submission: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Deadline for pre selection: 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Interviews with pre selected candidates: week of 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2017

Candidates' choice: 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Beginning: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017