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Job announcements

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Job announcements

Two PhD positions

Georg-August-University Göttingen, Germany

The 'Biodiversity, Macroecology and Conservation Biogeography' group (<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/biodiversity>) invites applications for two PhD positions. Research in the group focuses on documenting and understanding broad-scale ecological and biogeographic patterns as well as implications of human activities on global biodiversity. Model groups are mainly plants and terrestrial vertebrates. Another emergent focus is the ecology of megadiverse tropical systems.

Position 1: Global-scale macroecology of plants. Research opportunities for a PhD project include basic and conservation-related topics on the macroecology of the global mainland floras. Depending on the individual research interests, the project may involve the testing of species richness hypotheses, biotic homogenization and geographic patterns of plant invasions. A number of methods will be applied, such as predictive geostatistical modelling, integration and comparisons of phylogenetic, functional, and species diversity. Working knowledge in at least two of the following areas is required: management and analysis of large relational databases, GIS (ArcGIS/ArcInfo), statistical methods (package R), scripting and programming languages (C++, Python). A strong interest in modern macroecological and biogeographical research questions is required.

Position 2: Modelling spatial dynamics and demographic aspects of vascular epiphytes. This DFG-funded project aims at developing demographic models for vascular epiphytes and at ultimately integrating this group of plants into process-based forest models. The PhD work involves field work in Panama and Brazil. The successful candidate will be responsible for developing demographic simulation models at both local and metapopulation scales as well as simulating scenarios of spatial-temporal distributions of epiphytes within forest fragments. Strong quantitative and computational skills and some experience with modeling techniques (C++ and/or R) are required. Experience with field work in the tro-

pics, possibly with vascular epiphytes, is a plus. The project is in close cooperation with Prof. Gerhard Zotz (Functional Ecology Lab - University of Oldenburg, Germany).

Positions are initially available for two years, but can be extended to three years after positive evaluation. Salary defined according to the German E13 TV-L scale (50%). Applicants for both positions should have a master or diploma degree in biology, geography, environmental sciences or a related field. We explicitly welcome applications from abroad. Applications including a CV and a statement of research interests should be sent as a single PDF document by email to Prof. Dr. Holger Kreft (hkreft@uni-goettingen.de). For informal enquiries about the posts please contact Prof. Dr. Holger Kreft (position #1), Dr. Juliano Cabral (jsarmen@uni-goettingen.de, position #2) or visit <http://www.uni-goettingen.de/biodiversity> for further information. Review of applications will start on October 7 and continue until the positions are filled.

Postdoc position

Aarhus University, Denmark

An **interdisciplinary** postdoc position in **Geospatial Informatics** is available starting February 2011 or later. The responsibilities of the postdoc will include work on geospatial problems on the boundary between *computer science*, *geomorphometry* and *biology*.

The postdoc should focus on problems in relation to computationally efficient use of modern detailed **massive topographic data** in various global-change-relevant modeling applications. These problems include the computation of fine-resolution topography-derived variables on a global scale, as well as applications such as **global- and local-scale flooding scenario modeling (sea-level rise, tsunamis, extreme precipitation events etc.)** and impact assessment. Relevant teaching responsibilities will also be offered.

The postdoc will be jointly affiliated with the **Danish National Research Foundation Center**

One of the benefits open to IBS members is the opportunity to have job openings posted on the biogeography.org website. If you have a position you would like to have advertised, please contact Karen Faller (faller@wisc.edu) or Michael Dawson (mdawson@ucmerced.edu) with details.

MADALGO (Center for Massive Data Algorithmics - <http://www.madalgo.au.dk>) under the supervision of computer science Professor Lars Arge (<http://person.au.dk/en/large@cs>) and the **Ecoinformatics & Biodiversity Group** at the Department of Biological Sciences under the supervision of Professor Jens-Christian Svenning (<http://person.au.dk/en/svenning@biology>). **MADALGO** is a major basic research centre lead by Professor Lars Arge, focused in efficient algorithms for processing massive datasets. MADALGO's core researchers are located at four major research institutions: Max-Planck-Institute for Informatics (MPI); Institute for Computer Science, Goethe-University Frankfurt; Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab (CSAIL), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT); and Department of Computer Science, Aarhus University (AU). The **Ecoinformatics & Biodiversity Group** is amongst world leading research groups focusing on informatics-based research on ecology and environmental sciences, using increases in computing power and data availability and advances in statistics and mathematics to tackle complex problems in ecology and environmental science.

Applications are welcomed from **Computer scientists** with demonstrated skills in the design, analysis and implementation of algorithms; **Geoinformaticians** or **geographers** with strong informatics and programming skills; and/or **Biologists** with strong, demonstrated skills in ecoinformatics, GIS, and programming. Researchers with **interdisciplinary** research experience will be preferred.

Applicants should upload a letter of interest and a CV, as well as indicate at least two names of references for recommendations, using the applica-

tion form available at <http://www.madalgo.au.dk>. To be assured of full consideration, applications must arrive by November 1, 2010. Applications will be considered until the position is filled. For further information contact Professor Lars Arge at large@madalgo.au.dk or Professor Jens-Christian Svenning at svenning@biology.au.dk.

PhD level graduate research assistantship

We seek an advanced graduate student with strong interdisciplinary interests in biogeography, ecology and evolution to join us in an NSF-funded project studying body size of mammals that inhabit islands. This project will be conducted collaboratively with Drs. Mark V. Lomolino – College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY, USA (biogeographer and community ecologist), Dov F. Sax – Brown University, Providence, RI, USA (an invasion biologist) and Dr. Maria R. Palombo - Università degli Studi “La Sapienza” – Roma, Italy (a vertebrate paleontologist) to examine a diverse array of evidence for changes in body size that occur following colonization of islands by mammals. The position will involve significant travel, but will be based in the research lab of Dr. Lomolino in Syracuse, NY. The position is available beginning January, 2011, or earlier depending on availability of applicant. Please send a curriculum vitae and letter of inquiry as email attachments to Professor Lomolino at island@esf.edu; please fill in the subject line as “Island GRA”.

Upcoming events

BIOME 2010 Biodiversity Meeting

21-22 October 2010 – Virac, Catanduanes, Philippines
<http://pacifictech.multiply.com/>

Adekunle Ajasin University Faculty of science 2nd international conference

Issues and challenges of Climate Change
8-11 November 2010 – Akungba Akoko, Nigeria
<http://www.ajasin.edu.ng/fsc/>

International Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change

17-19 November 2010 – Manila, Philippines
<http://www.icbdcc.com/>

Royal Society / ZSL joint symposium

Disease invasion: impacts on biodiversity and human health
18-19 November 2010 – London, UK
<http://www.zsl.org/science/scientific-meetings/>