

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: ***Permanence in Economics, Social Preferences and Social Interactions: new empirical studies***

Job Summary:

The PhD project will contribute to understand permanence from an economic perspective integrating ecological aspects with the aim to improve in particular biodiversity conservation. The PhD student will be an economist and he will integrate ecological knowledge in his analysis – in particular with the support from the team. The main question of the PhD thesis would be to understand the effectiveness of incentives on both long-lasting cooperation and permanence from both the economic and ecological sides when looking at biodiversity conservation. This PhD project is part of a joint research project PEPSI (Permanence in Economics, Social Preferences and Social Interactions) between *University of Strasbourg (BETA)*, *Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg* and *Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ*. As the candidate will have to be inserted in the PEPSI project, (s)he will work with the French and German teams, having the case studies in both countries. Most of the time, (s)he will be localized at BETA but will travel and organize some stays in Germany.

Job Description:

Successful candidates will become part of the BETA Lab, being inserted in the Doctoral School Cournot of the University of Strasbourg, under the supervision of Mathieu Lefebvre (Assistant Prof) and Anne Stenger (Research Director). Part of the research at BETA focuses on theoretical and empirical research with an emphasis on public economics and experimental issues. The candidate should have a strong interest in these topics and ideally possess a background in one or two of these fields (economics, environmental/ecological economics, experimental economics, and public economics) with an interest for quantitative data analysis. The candidate is expected to spend some research stays at the German partner research centers under the supervision of Frank Wätzold (Prof.) and Martin Drechsler (Prof.). In addition, the positions require advanced writing and communication skills in English. A fluent command of the German language would be an advantage.

The global aim of our French-German collaboration is to address long-lasting cooperation in environmental issues, looking both at individual's behavior and the environmental impact, especially after the removal of incentives or the stopping in public policies. Generally speaking, in the specific question of voluntary contribution to public good, there is a lack of data regarding both the understanding of individuals' social behavior and the impact on environment like landscapes or biodiversity conservation. Based on theory in public good, experimental and/or field economics will help us in producing some new data.

From the economic side, long-lasting cooperation matters asking to understand the type and dynamics of incentives on which it relies. This question is central when looking both at cost-effectiveness of public program and sustainability of the funding institutions. We will explore the long-lasting cooperation in environmental issues looking at (i) the existence and links between incentives; (ii) the role and the design of public policies. Given budgetary considerations, one can ask the long-run repercussions of using incentives in short-run cases on behaviors. Non-monetary incentives like pro-social preferences and social interactions

tend to affect the individuals' choices and decisions in a complex interdependencies with monetary incentives.

From an ecological perspective, the permanence of habitats is beneficial for species persistence in a landscape. Frequent changes in land use leading to habitat destruction and restoration as in the case of offsetting and infrequent participation of farmers in agri-environment programs and payment for ecosystem service schemes may have a negative impacts on species. These impacts arise as habitats may take long time to regenerate and species do not recolonize new habitat immediately. However, some species require disturbances to survive and prefer habitat turnover. In addition, climate change in Europe will shift suitable habitats for many species northwards which implies that the spatial permanence of conservation measures may become dysfunctional. Furthermore, improvements in ecological knowledge may identify more suitable conservation measures, which also requires changes and adaptation.

Main research field : Economics / Environmental science

JOB DETAIL

Type of contract : Temporary
Status : Full-time
Company / Institute : Université de Strasbourg
Country : France
City : Strasbourg
Postal Code : 67000
Street : 4 rue Blaise Pascal

APPLICATION DETAILS (mandatory)

Envisaged job starting date : 01/10/2016
Application deadline : 15/05/2016
Application e-mail : anne.stenger@nancy.inra.fr

Additional information:

-Salary: 1684€ from Oct 1, 2016 during three years.

- Deadline for the submission of the application file: May 15

-To be eligible, the candidate must fulfil the following criteria:

- To hold a MASTER diploma from a foreign university or to have enrolled in a MASTER program at the University of Strasbourg in order to register in doctoral studies, after completion of a complete bachelor's degree course in a university abroad ;
- research process undergoing in a Research Unit of the site "Alsace" .

- Selection procedure

-First Step: send a detailed CV and a motivation letter

-Second step: Selected candidates will be offered a skype interview

- If selected, the successful candidate will have to provide the following documents:

- a detailed CV with a list of publications (if any)
- titles or diplomas certifications (with translation)

- contacts of the last institution you enrolled in (address, phone number, e-mail address)
- a copy of your publications and of your master dissertation, as well as a summary of the dissertation
- a birth certificate
- one or more recommendation letters for a scientific guarantor (teacher, responsible, researcher...)
- a motivation letter

And a letter from the PhD supervisor which explains the different steps of the selection (number of applications, number of interviews etc.)