

Social network researcher

to study the role of contact networks in infections

The Maastricht University Medical Center seeks to hire a researcher with interest and skills in social network methods to assess the role of the social network in (spread of) infections.

Support for the position is now available for one and a half year through a ZonMW grant. This project is called SaNAE and includes the Maastricht University Medical Centre Medical microbiology, Public health service South Limburg (Dr. Nicole Dukers-Muijers) and Julius Center (Prof. Mirjam Kretzschmar). The successful applicant will be a productive scholar who has skills and knowledge related to social network methods and/or in epidemiology.

The ideal candidate has background in epidemiology, management, disease ecology, anthropology, geography, sociology, or other integrative field; and previous high-quality, first-authored publications. The candidate should have experience in social network statistics, and is skilled in using Ucinet, Netdraw (preferably has knowledge on other SNA software as well).

Preferably, the candidate also has skills of using SPSS or other statistical software (e.g. SAS, R, Stata) (for epidemiologic methods). Knowledge of infectious diseases is a pre but not required.

The researcher will analyse network information collected in the Maastricht Study and publish his/her findings. The Maastricht Study is a large and long-term observational prospective population based cohort study in over 3000 middle aged and older people living in the southern part of the Netherlands. Part of the Maastricht study focuses on the role of the social network in relation to infections which is the topic of the current project. By means of biological measurements of infections and self reported social network questionnaires, cross-sectional attribute data on actors and relations is collected. Currently, both ego-networks and contact networks are being constructed using these data. The purpose of the current project is to analyze this network information in relation to infections. This will be done using statistical and social network analyses techniques.

This study will be conducted in close co-operation with the Department of Sexual Health, Infectious Diseases and Environmental Health from the Public Health Service South Limburg. The Maastricht University Medical Centre offers a vibrant scientific community. Expertise on social networks extends across departments involved in this project and the school is renowned for its cutting edge research on the applications of network methods and its applications in public health.

Appointments will be for one-and-a half year. Salary and arrangements will be offered according to University of Maastricht guidelines. <http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/>.

Please submit **before 21 December 2015** a cover letter with research interests, a detailed CV, and names of 2 references, to Dr. Nicole Dukers-Muijers. Nicole.dukers@ggdzl.nl. For inquiries, please contact Nicole.dukers@ggdzl.nl / Phone.+0031 629193150.

Starting date is early 2016. The location of the work is in The Netherlands (Maastricht) but can be negotiable (e.g. for abroad applicants).