



**Postdoctoral position (2 years)
in ecology and anthropology**

Laboratoire Ecologie, Systématique, Evolution
Université Paris-Sud



Before 2020-01-31

Paris – Orsay

We are looking for a postdoctoral fellow in interdisciplinary environmental sciences, including ecology, anthropology and other related disciplines, who will work on Sami knowledge about environmental change and the co-production of scenarios. The position is part of the BiodivScen (BiodivERsA – Belmont Forum joint call) project “Future Arctic Ecosystems (FATE): drivers of diversity and future scenarios from ethno-ecology, contemporary ecology and ancient DNA”. The deadline for application is January 31, 2020 and the position is expected to start in early 2020.

Background

The Millennium Assessment and the Intergovernmental Panel of Experts on Climate Change (IPCC) have identified scenarios and models as powerful tools and methods to provide decision makers with information for ecosystem management in an uncertain world. In the methodological assessment of scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services published in 2016 by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), experts recommend mobilizing local and indigenous knowledge (ILK) and the engagement of ILK holders, for the effective application of scenarios and models. These recommendations bring to the fore the challenges of knowledge hybridization, the relationship with uncertainty and the representation and anticipation of futures in different knowledge systems. They recall past debates about the integration of indigenous knowledge and science in resource management, including political and epistemological concerns (*e.g.* Nadasdy 1999, *Arctic Anthropology*).

Polar regions are an important focal point in scenarios and models due to their central role in controlling and regulating the climate of the entire planet, and also because they are warming faster than other regions. Global change, including climate warming and extractivism, threaten indigenous peoples' livelihoods and the ecosystem functioning upon which they rely.

What are the knowledge and experiences of indigenous communities about the changes they observe in the Arctic and subarctic? How might these understandings be incorporated into models and scenarios and for what purpose? Are the latter of potential utility for indigenous communities? Is ILK compatible with the Western, technoscientific worldview of which models and scenarios are an integral part? Are these modalities compatible with indigenous ways of anticipating the future and their power to influence them? Does scenario making in indigenous contexts open new pathways for transdisciplinary research?

Objectives of the post-doctoral study

In this project we will address these issues by studying Sami ecological knowledge and the co-production of scenarios in northern Fennoscandia. The post-doctoral fellow will study the links between traditional livelihoods, including reindeer husbandry, hunting, fishing and gathering, and various habitats and ecological processes, in a context of global change. The aim is to understand:

(i) Sami knowledge about the main drivers that modify their relationships with the environment; (ii) the strategies and levers for reindeer herders to cope with these changes; (iii) Sami representations of futures and the potential to influence them; and (iv) the opportunity for scenario co-production that meets indigenous and local priorities and concerns.

To achieve these objectives, the fellow is expected to undertake research with Sami, analyse data and write scientific papers within the framework of the project presented above. In addition the post-doctoral fellow will coordinate the organisation of workshops with indigenous communities and other participants to the FATE project. The work will be done in collaboration with [Samuel Roturier](#) and Marie Roué.

The position is full time for two years at the Laboratoire Ecologie, Systématique, Evolution in the team [TESS](#) (www.ese.u-psud.fr), Université Paris Sud, located at Orsay (30 min from Paris). The salary is indexed on the salary tables used at the Université Paris Sud.

Qualifications

Candidates should have a Ph.D. in the social sciences (environmental anthropology or related field) or in ecology with strong interdisciplinary experience. We seek a creative and highly motivated person with fieldwork experience in the social sciences, and good oral and written communication skills in English.

Prior working experience in circumpolar regions and some knowledge of Norwegian, Swedish or Sami language would be an asset.

Application

Applications can be submitted in English or French, and should include:

- A personal cover letter including your motivations for joining the project.
- CV including a list of publications
- A copy of the Ph.D. thesis and/or relevant publication (max three).
- Names and contact details of two references.

The application should be sent by email to Samuel Roturier (samuel.roturier@u-psud.fr). Enclosed documents must be in pdf format. The closing date is January 31, 2020.

Contact

Questions regarding the project or the postdoctoral position should be directed to Samuel Roturier, Assistant professor at AgroParisTech, Laboratoire Ecologie, Systématique, Evolution: samuel.roturier@u-psud.fr