

Postdoc on Drivers of Biodiversity Change @iDiv (Leipzig, Germany)

Postdoctoral Researcher on “Environmental drivers of biodiversity change“

We offer an exciting two-year Postdoc position at the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig to develop data-driven theory on the attribution of biodiversity change. The start of the position is flexible, but the successful candidate would preferably start by Summer 2019. The project is supervised by Dr. Carsten Meyer (iDiv’s Macroecology & Society group) in collaboration with Prof. Jonathan Chase (iDiv’s Biodiversity Synthesis group) and other researchers at iDiv and beyond (Dr. Shane Blowes, Dr. Diana Bowler, Prof. Andreas Huth, Prof. Marta Jarzyna, Prof. Ingolf Kühn).

While human activities are often implicated in causing biodiversity change, attributing these changes to specific drivers has proved challenging. Multiple anthropogenic pressures (e.g. land-use change, habitat loss, climate change) are hypothesized to be responsible, each of which is multi-faceted and scale-dependent. Because of a number of methodological and theoretical challenges, few generalizations have emerged about biodiversity-environmental-change relationships and the explanatory power of current modelling approaches is typically low. This project aims to address these challenges.

Job description:

- developing a conceptual framework and general methodology to guide model-building for attribution of biodiversity change to drivers across taxa
- carrying out research attributing biodiversity change to environmental drivers across scales, using cutting-edge statistical tools and large-scale spatiotemporal datasets on species’ abundances (e.g. North American Breeding Bird Survey, BioTime) and environmental variables
- developing analysis scripts/workflows that help enable a larger and longer-lasting infrastructure for global-change analysis
- leading the dissemination of project results via high-quality journal publications and conference presentations
- organization of project-related workshops

Requirements / expected profile:

- successfully completed PhD in a project-related field (e.g. macroecology, community ecology, or statistics) and interest in developing a career in quantitative ecology
- excellent knowledge of biodiversity theory (population-, landscape-, community-, and/or macro-ecological)
- strong analytical skills and experience in hierarchical statistical modelling; specific prior experience in spatiotemporal modelling, Bayesian statistics, or working with community/population time-series data is advantageous, but not a prerequisite
- experience in parallel computing (HPC environment), and version control (e.g. Git) will be advantageous
- pro-active, results-oriented and with excellent team and communication skills

We offer:

- two-year postdoc position in a highly dynamic, collaborative and interdisciplinary environment

- access to powerful computing resources and support by iDiv's informatics units and collaborators
- career-building support (e.g. in proposal writing, teaching opportunities, networking) over the course of the project
- Salary: Entgeltgruppe 13 TV-L (standard German postdoc funding, which is more than adequate to live comfortably in Leipzig)
- The working language at iDiv is English, and iDiv is overall a very international institute. While knowledge of the German language will certainly be helpful for living in Germany, it is not necessary and assistance will be provided for settling in.

Applications are accepted until 19 March 2019.

Link to full job ad under: https://www.idiv.de/en/about_idiv/career.html

Jonathan Chase

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