

Post-doctoral position in biological anthropology: Bordeaux, France.

The BUR.P.P.H. project (Burial practices at the Pleistocene - Holocene transition: the changing role of pathology, violence, and “exceptional events”), funded under the program IdEx “Investissements d’Avenir” of the University of Bordeaux and the ANR (L’Agence nationale de la recherche; ANR-10-IDEX-03-02; project host lab: UMR5199 PACEA) is offering a postdoctoral position in biological anthropology for 12 months. The post is intended for researchers in the initial phase of their career, with post-doctoral experience up to three years: salary under the INM 554 scheme (monthly net c. 2000 €).

The BUR.P.P.H. investigates the changing modes and reasons to bury the dead at the Pleistocene-Holocene transition through the joint analysis of biological and funerary data. The “biological profile” of each individual (information on sex, age, diet, health, and activity) will be cross-referenced with funerary treatment in order to investigate the issue of selection for burial. One major portion of the study will be dedicated to the understanding of the funerary use of caves in Liguria (northwestern Italy) throughout the Neolithic through direct dating and anthropological analysis of a skeletal series which was excavated beginning from the late 1800s. The post-doctoral researcher will collect information on the skeletal composition, morphology, trauma and pathological conditions, and cranial and infracranial metrics from burials and secondary deposits of bones spanning from the Late Upper Palaeolithic to the end of the Neolithic. Data will be acquired from the literature and from the collection of new data, which will include the surface scanning of key skeletal elements. The project will not involve the collection of dental data, which will be carried out by the sister project DEN.P.H (Grant Agreement number: 752626 — DENPH — H2020-MSCA-IF-2016).

The researcher will be attached to the UMR5199 PACEA, will be supervised by Dr. Vitale Sparacello, PI of the project, and will collaborate in collecting and analyzing data, as well as disseminating and publishing research with the team of scholars and institutions involved in the study in France and abroad.

Minimum requirements:

- PhD in biological anthropology, palaeontology, or related field. Candidates who are preparing their doctoral thesis are eligible to apply; however, they must have obtained their Ph.D. before taking up their appointment.
- A good knowledge of the English language.
- Experience with the recording of osteometric and morphological data from the cranium and infracranium.
- Experience with managing large databases.

Preferred:

- The study will involve the analysis of the documentation from past excavations to extract information relevant to funerary behavior, therefore a working knowledge of the Italian language is preferable.
- Research experience in the bioarchaeology of the Italian Upper Palaeolithic and Neolithic, or a familiarity with the literature.
- Experience or interest in the acquisition of surface scans via photogrammetry and laser/structured light scanning.

Interested candidates should submit their application material to Dr. Vitale Sparacello (vitale.sparacello@u-bordeaux.fr), including a statement of research interests (2 pages max), in which they explain how their expertise will fit into the larger project, a *curriculum vitae* including the publication list, and the name, e-mail address, and affiliation of two scholars who are able to provide letters of reference. The reference letters should be sent by the two scholars to the aforementioned e-mail address.

Deadline of the application: April 14th

Deadline for the reference letters: April 28th

Preferred starting date: September 2017