Postdoctoral Research position
Epidemiology / Public Health / Sociology

High schools and adolescent friendship network socioeconomic composition prospective associations with social inequalities in health using social network analysis

Environement

The candidate will join the CaLIPSo team (Cancer et Lutte contre les Inégalités dans la Prévention et dans les Soins), a research team with international recognition for its multidisciplinary approach between public health, social and behavioral sciences. CaLIPSo gather various expertise – epidemiology, public health, health economics, statistics, anthropology, sociology- et develop research on prevention, access to care and social inequalities in health.
The postdoctoral will work specifically on the research project SCOOT (social contagion and obesity in adolescents).

The SCOOT project

Funded by the National Research Agency (ANR) for a 4-year period (Principal Investigator: Maxime Luiggi), the SCOOT project brings together a multidisciplinary team spanning public health, sociology, biostatistics, anthropology. The first research goal is to determine whether friendship socioeconomic composition -measured at the interpersonal level- is prospectively associated with the development of school-level social health inequalities. The main health outcome is obesity. Secondary outcomes include behavioural risk factors for obesity (physical activity, diet, sleep). Secondary research objectives seek to address whether adolescent network structure (network centrality, cohesion, peer clustering, for example) have retrospective and prospective associations with health behaviors and outcomes (obesity, psychosocial health).
Around 2000 early adolescents were included at baseline. They participated to different measures:

- Questionnaires
- Accelerometer
- Objective height/weight
- Semi-directive interviews

Postdoctoral main goal

Your goals will be to carry out longitudinal network analyses to address the main research aim of the SCOOT project and to contribute to the secondary research objectives. You will have access to two time points (T0 and T1) from the data collected in the cohort.

Postdoctoral main activities

- Getting to grips with the database at inclusion (T0)
- Cleaning and preparing the database at T1 for longitudinal analyses
- Proposal of analysis plans in line with the postdoctoral objectives and in collaboration with the project leader and the research team
- Conducting descriptive analyses
- Conducting longitudinal network analyses using state-of-the-art statistical tools in the field (SAOMs)
- Writing of two scientific articles in leading international journals in epidemiology/public health/sociology

- Regular contribution to meetings to present the progress of the work
- Participation in an international conference (complex systems, sociology, epidemiology)

Skills

Operational

- Proficiency in R/Python and possibly Stata
- Proficiency in 'classical' statistical analyses (descriptive statistics, linear/logistic regressions, principal component analyses, etc.)
- Proficiency in network analyses, as evidenced by international scientific publications
- Scientific writing skills, as evidenced by international scientific publications in sociology and/or epidemiology

Behavorial

- Desire to disseminate results to non-specialist audiences
- Rigour and autonomy in conducting and presenting statistical analyses
- Strong interest in adolescent health and ISS
- Openness and scientific curiosity

Work environment

The work will be carried out within the **CaLIPSo team** of the joint research unit UMR 1252 **SESSTIM** ("Economic and Social Sciences of Health and Medical Information Processing," Inserm/IRD/Aix-Marseille University), at the premises of the **IHU Méditerranée Infection** (13005 Marseille). For more information: https://sesstim.univ-amu.fr/fr

Degrees

PhD in epidemiology, computational/quantitative sociology, eventually physics/mathematics

Contract

Start date: between April and June 2026
Duration: 18 months
Remuneration: according to experience and Aix-Marseille University pay scale
Benefits: partial coverage of public transport subscription costs; teleworking days; flat-rate reimbursement for supplementary health insurance

Candidature :

Please send your application (CV + cover letter) to the following addresses: Maxime Luiggi maxime.luiggi@univ-amu.fr, Patrizia Carrieri maria-patrizia.carrieri@inserm.fr, and Julia Favre Felix julia.favre-felix@inserm.fr with the subject line 'SCOOT postdoctoral application'.
Application deadline: 21/12/2025