

JOB DESCRIPTION A

Research assistant (ethics and health law) in Geneva

The University of Geneva (University Center of Legal Medicine) wants to employ a research assistant for work in different scientific projects with international collaborations about ethical and legal (human rights and humanitarian law) and, depending on the project, some forensic aspects. The research assistant will be part of a highly motivated and hard working team in the unit for health policy, ethics and humanitarian aspects of medicine (participation in ongoing/starting projects such as research on confidentiality in forensic and prison psychiatry, death investigation and prevention in custody).

Work load: in principal part time, to be defined (e.g. 10% to 60% work load). Opportunity to advance a scientific career.

Preferred is an academically highly qualified candidate envisioning an academic career who is capable of and interested in writing scientific publications (articles in journals with IF, book), either a post doc or a highly qualified candidate having already published in scientific journals in English and interested in writing a doctorate or master thesis (ethics or law) on the subject.

Requirements:

High motivation and interest in empirical and theoretical aspects of the before mentioned subjects such as ethical and legal (human rights and humanitarian law) and forensic issues. Very good academic qualifications, MD or Bachelor/Master degree in subject related areas, prior scientific publications in IF journals, very good written and spoken English. Experience in quantitative research methods (e.g. SPSS), and (not obligatory) with interviews, e.g. qualitative research in policy issues.

Please submit a letter of motivation, CV, copies of diplomas (with scores/evaluations/grades obtained), and examples of publications to Prof. B. Elger, Center for Legal Medicine, Faculty of Médecine, University of Geneva (Bernice.Elger@hcuge.ch with copy to Yolande.Meyer@hcuge.ch).

JOB DESCRIPTION B

Project: Death in Custody: Towards an International Framework for Investigation and Prevention

financed by the Swiss Network for International Studies ("Le Réseau")

The University of Geneva (Centre Universitaire Romand de Médecine Légale) wants to employ a research assistant for two years (work load 50%, 1.1.2009-31.12.2010) for a multidisciplinary, international research project in a highly motivated team, in collaboration with the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, the University of Bern, the International Centre for Prison Studies (King's College London), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT).

Preferred is an academically highly qualified candidate envisioning an academic career who is capable of and interested in writing scientific publications (articles in journals with IF, book), either a post doc or a highly qualified candidate having already published in scientific journals in English and interested in writing a doctorate or master thesis (ethics, health law, legal medicine or sociology) on the subject.

The project aims to undertake research relating to the conditions under which deaths in custody should be investigated and prevented in ethically acceptable ways that are based on principles and procedures in line with respect for human rights and humanitarian law.

Tasks of the candidate: a comprehensive review of the scientific literature will be followed by an empirical study (qualitative and quantitative) about investigation and prevention of deaths in custody from different continents to ensure diversity of global regions and levels of economic development. Questionnaires need to be developed that will be transmitted to CPT members, ICRC delegates and other experts to collect information from local authorities about their official or usual practice to investigate deaths in custody. In addition, interviews (over the phone or in person, in Geneva) will be held by the research assistant with 40 to 50 experts (from the CPT, the ICRC, relevant NGOs etc.) in order to compare existing strategies for investigation of deaths in custody and to evaluate knowledge about legal frameworks for deaths investigation, as well as about basic forensic techniques feasible in countries where local forensic specialists are not available. The results of these interviews will be combined with the prior analytic work and the work of a research assistant in the legal domain in order to produce draft practice guidelines which could be of use for persons confronted with deaths in custody. Unresolved or controversial issues will be taken up during a final consultative process to which specialists from the before-mentioned areas, ICRC delegates and experienced NGO members will be invited, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue on this difficult topic.

Requirements: High motivation and interest in the empirical (forensic and practical) aspects of the subject, very good academic qualifications, MD or Bachelor/Master degree in subject related areas, prior scientific publications in IF journals, very good written and spoken English. Experience in quantitative research methods (e.g. SPSS), and (not obligatory) with interviews, e.g. qualitative research in policy issues.

Please submit a letter of motivation, CV, copies of diplomas (with scores/evaluations/grades obtained), and examples of publications to Prof. B. Elger, Center for Legal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva (Bernice.Elger@hcuge.ch with copy to Yolande.Meyer@hcuge.ch).

JOB DESCRIPTION C

Project: Death in Custody: Towards an International Framework for Investigation and Prevention

financed by the Swiss Network for International Studies (“Le Réseau”)

Human rights law and humanitarian law part

The University Centre for Legal Medicine (University of Geneva) and the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights want to employ a research assistant for two years (work load 50%, 1.1.2009-31.12.2010) for a multidisciplinary, international research project in a highly motivated team, in collaboration with the University of Bern, the International Centre for Prison Studies (King's College London), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT).

Preferred is an academically highly qualified candidate envisioning an academic career who is capable of and interested in writing scientific publications (articles in journals with IF, book), either a post doc or a highly qualified candidate having already published in scientific journals in English and interested in writing a doctorate or master thesis (law or ethics) on the subject.

The project aims to undertake research relating to the conditions under which deaths in custody should be investigated and prevented in ethically acceptable ways that are based on principles and procedures in line with respect for human rights and humanitarian law.

Tasks of the candidate: International human rights and humanitarian law stipulates that prisoners have the right to be treated humanely. They should receive adequate medical care according to their health needs. Not only is “any form of coercion” during interrogations as well as torture and any form of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment prohibited according to the Geneva Conventions as well as according to international human rights law; in Europe there is also a growing body of soft law, decisions from the European Court of Human Rights, and CPT reports that indicate that inadequate health care, lack of hygiene and insufficient nutrition are violations of article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human rights. All three can lead to increased mortality and so called “natural” deaths in custody, although they are clearly related to inadequate conditions of custody. At the universal level, in parallel to the UN Convention against Torture, the recent adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (United Nations, 2006) which was opened for signature in February 2007, is a major landmark for the purpose of establishing a comprehensive framework for preventing and investigating death in custody.

The candidate will carry out a comprehensive review of the scientific literature, an analysis of international human rights law and humanitarian law concerning the before mentioned subject, complemented by a comparative analysis of existing guidelines and legal documents (domestic law) about investigation and prevention of deaths in custody from several countries (from different continents to ensure diversity of global regions and levels of economic development).

Requirements: High motivation and interest in the legal and ethical aspects of the subject, very good academic qualifications, Bachelor or Master degree in subject related areas, prior scientific publications in international journals, very good written and spoken English. Experience in research in policy issues.

Please submit a letter of motivation, CV, copies of diplomas (with scores/evaluations/grades obtained), and examples of publications to Prof. B. Elger, Center for Legal Medicine, Faculty of Médecine, University of Geneva (Bernice.Elger@hcuge.ch with copy to Yolande.Meyer@hcuge.ch).