



PATHWAYS: An International Postdoctoral Fellowship Program for the Comparative Study of Productive Youth Development, funded by the Jacobs Foundation invites applications for the position of

**POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER for a fixed-term period of 24 months, starting as early as possible**

The international postdoctoral program PATHWAYS - Comparative Analysis of Productive Youth Development includes researchers from the following universities and institutions:

- University of London, Institute of Education, UK (mentor: Prof. Ingrid Schoon, Director of the program)
- University of Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, Finland (mentor: Prof. Katariina Salmela-Aro) in cooperation with the Academy of Finland Centre of Excellence in Learning and Motivation Research
- University of Jena, Center for Applied Developmental Science, Germany (mentor: Prof. Rainer K. Silbereisen)
- University of Stockholm, Sweden (mentor: Prof. Lars Bergman)
- University of Tübingen, Germany (mentor: Prof. Ulrich Trautwein)
- University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA (Institute for Social Research; CHGD – Center for Human Growth and Development; CAPCA (Center for the Analysis of Pathways from Childhood through Adulthood) (mentor: Prof. Jacqui Eccles); Michigan State University (mentor: Prof. Barbara Schneider)

The program is funded by the Jacobs Foundation.

The network of institutions has a joint postdoctoral fellowship program, which aims to facilitate an understanding of the challenges faced by young people in their transition from the education system to the labour market and to adulthood. The fellow will have a mentor in the host university. The scientists and mentors from the participating organisations work together on agreed projects with clearly defined research targets.

The program is now offering a position for a postdoctoral researcher for 24 months, beginning as early as possible. This includes a four-month probation period. The researcher will be employed by the University of Jena, and be located at the Center for Applied Developmental Science (CADS) in Jena Germany (for details, see <http://www2.uni-jena.de/svw/devpsy/cads/start.php>). As a member of the CADS, the postdoctoral researcher may participate in the daily activities of the Collegium. The Collegium will offer the researcher a work space with a computer plus the normal amenities of an office environment. Also, the aim is that the holder of the position will spend at least six weeks of the research period in another university belonging to the program, and collaborate with PATHWAYS Fellows and PIs at our partner institutions.



## **PATHWAYS - POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

The PATHWAYS postdoctoral program invites applications to the position of postdoctoral researcher for a fixed-term of 24 months, beginning as soon as possible. The appointee will cooperate with the PATHWAYS program, sponsored by the Jacobs Foundation. The program is directed by Professor Ingrid Schoon from the Institute of Education at the University of London. Professor Rainer K. Silbereisen will act as the main mentor at the CADS, along with the other mentors of the program. The mission of the program is to engage in the comparative study of productive youth development, investigating the antecedents, processes, and long-term outcomes of youth transitions, as well as the factors and processes promoting a successful transition to adulthood (see the attached description of the fellowship program).

The Fellowship Program is aimed at applicants who have recently completed a doctorate in one of the following fields: psychology, sociology, economics, education, statistics (or equivalent), and who wish to continue with a career in academic research. Successful candidates will be experienced researchers who will be able to engage in cooperation with an international network.

You will have an interest in life course research, with particular emphasis on the social, psychological, and economic influences on productive youth development. The aim is that you will work with one or more cross-sectional and longitudinal studies of research consortia housed at the CADS, such as:

Psychosocial Resources and Coping with Social Change  
(<http://www.sfb580.uni-jena.de>, go to project C6)

Regulation of Biographical Transitions in Immigrants  
(<http://www.migration.uni-jena.de>)

Psychological Precursors of Entrepreneurship  
([http://www2.uni-jena.de/svw/devpsy/projects/startb\\_e.html](http://www2.uni-jena.de/svw/devpsy/projects/startb_e.html), go to entrepreneurship)

You should also be prepared to spend six weeks at one of our international partner institutions to develop proposals for comparative research with other PIs and PATHWAYS Fellows.

You will have a high level of proficiency in applying advanced statistical methods to empirical research and have experience in longitudinal data analysis.

### **Research area**

The key themes and research questions of the PATHWAYS program include the following: how to facilitate the transition to adulthood; how to promote resilience and positive adjustment; social ties and resources that enhance socialisation and strengthen the successful transition from the educational setting to the workplace; institutional and state policies as well as practices that can alter the trajectories of youth, especially those at risk.



In particular we expect the postdoctoral researcher/ to address one of the following content areas:

- Positive, productive youth development
- School transitions
- Education and guidance
- Employment transitions
- Family transitions and parenthood
- Interlinkages between transitions
- Goals, aspirations and values
- Risk behaviours and health
- Becoming productive citizens
- Institutional support and variations in different countries
- Identification of the risks and obstacles of youth transitions
- Opportunities of youth transitions
- Educational and social inequality
- Resilience in the face of adversity
- Protective and supportive mechanisms and processes
- Interventions

Mentor at the Center for Applied Developmental Science: Professor Rainer K. Silbereisen, [rainer.silbereisen@uni-jena.de](mailto:rainer.silbereisen@uni-jena.de), +49/3641/945201.

### **Contribution to research**

The postdoctoral researcher will support the research conducted by the PATHWAYS program and the research at the Center for Developmental Science at the University of Jena, Germany, by:

- i. Developing research capacity at an international level through collaboration with the mentor in writing up papers related to the key themes of the program
- ii. Developing, together with the mentor, proposals for comparative research within the PATHWAYS program
- iii. Undertaking analysis of productive youth development in life transitions
- iv. Developing measures to be included in on-going longitudinal data collection
- v. Deepening the understanding of youth development across the life course
- vi. Supporting the capability and networking of the PATHWAYS program and the Centre of Excellence in advancing and developing approaches for the study of productive youth development
- vii. Enhancing the research capacity of the program by developing proposals and applications for future research in the field.



### **The role and responsibilities of the researcher/fellow**

The holder of the position will be required to:

- Write and publish international-quality research papers (three to four as a guideline) in high impact academic journals;
- Prepare academic papers for international publication together with the mentor
- Undertake an agreed research program under the guidance of the mentor
- Participate and engage in further training, as agreed with the mentor and the PATHWAYS program
- Contribute to the development of the research field and dissemination of research results. This will involve:
  - Undertaking relevant reviews of the international research literature
  - Contributing to the development of proposals for funded research projects
  - Participating in data collection
  - Analysing data
  - Undertaking research in designing interventions aiming to enhance young people's capacity and positive development
- Participating in and providing input to the activities of the program, such as organisation of seminars and workshops
- Creating and fostering contacts with other researchers and research groups to discuss shared research interests and explore potential collaboration
- As appropriate, contribute to teaching/training activities in the area of the fellowship
- Undertake such other duties as may reasonably be requested.

### **Selection criteria**

Essential criteria include the following:

1. A recently earned doctorate in one of the following fields: psychology, sociology, education, economics, statistics or equivalent.
2. A thorough understanding of a range of research methods and paradigms.
3. Evidence of the ability to develop a line of inquiry as an independent researcher who will be able to enhance national and international research capacity.
4. Demonstrable experience in writing papers for publication in academic journals, related to the specified area of the fellowship.
5. A publication plan to be developed further with the help of the mentor.
6. Potential to develop further a research plan as well as proposals for funded research.
7. The ability to contribute to teaching at postgraduate level.
8. Excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to communicate effectively.
9. The ability to work as a member of a team.



10. A commitment to an academic career.

Desirable qualities include the following:

1. Knowledge and experience of a variety of multivariate statistical techniques, such as hierarchical regression, latent growth curve analysis, multilevel modelling, time series analysis and structural equation analysis
2. Knowledge and experience of at least one statistical software developed for the analysis of longitudinal studies, such as Mplus, HLM, Stata, AMOS, and/or others

In the application, the applicant should indicate how his or her qualifications, experience and training fit **each** of the selection criteria (references such as "Please see attached CV" will not be considered acceptable).

#### **Required enclosures**

1. Application indicating the above-listed criteria
2. CV
3. List of publications
4. A brief (max. 6 pages) research plan
5. References, if any

The application should be in English.

#### **Appointment**

The appointment is for a full-time position for 24 months, beginning as early as possible.

The appointee will be responsible to the Center for Applied Developmental Science of the University of Jena and to its Director Professor Rainer K. Silbereisen

The application period begins with the date of this announcement and is open until the position is filled (an application within 6 weeks is advisable). Applications must be addressed to Professor Rainer K. Silbereisen, and sent via email. Applicants may be invited for an interview.

Further information is available from Rainer K. Silbereisen, [rainer.silbereisen@uni-jena.de](mailto:rainer.silbereisen@uni-jena.de), +49/3641/945201

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**PATHWAYS: A Jacobs Foundation International Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program  
Comparative Analysis of Productive Youth Development**

The mission of this Collaborative Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program is to stimulate innovative, interdisciplinary, and comparative research of productive youth development. Participating institutions include the Institute of Education in London, the Universities of Michigan, Stockholm, Helsinki, Jena, and Tübingen. The major objective of the program is to promote the next generation of researchers and facilitate a better understanding and discourse with different stake holders about how to equip young people for mastering the challenges of growing up in a changing social context.

PATHWAYS will investigate the antecedents, processes, and long-term outcomes of youth transitions, as well as the factors and processes promoting human competences, especially among young people deemed to be at-risk. Training and mentoring will be provided to enhance understanding of diverse approaches to the study of productive youth development and to engage in constructive debates with colleagues from different disciplines. It will help to foster international and interdisciplinary research and exchange of ideas, in order to gain up-to-date skills for addressing research and policy questions that require combined approaches and a synergy of ideas.

A 'Virtual Institute Approach' has been adopted, not limiting activities to one physical location, but pooling the expertise of several partner institutions that are connected by shared research interests, projects and existing collaborations. The administrative core is based at the Institute of Education but many of PATHWAYS' activities occur at the participating sites. There will be regular joint workshops and conferences, bringing together scholars from around the globe, facilitating international networking and exchange.

For further information, please see our website: [www.pathwaysto adulthood.org](http://www.pathwaysto adulthood.org)

