

**Postdoctoral position:
Insecurity and access to health services in the Sahel**

General information

Job definition: Postdoctoral researcher.

Place of work: School of Public Health, University of Montreal, in Montreal, Canada.

Type of contract: Temporary contract.

Duration of contract: 12 months, renewable.

Expected hire date: As soon as possible, in 2024.

Working time: Full time.

Required qualification: Doctorate (Ph.D.) in scientific disciplines.

Research context

The successful candidate will work on the project: “Insecurity and its effects on access to health care in the Sahel” (*Insécurité et Ses Effets sur l’Accès aux Soins de santé au Sahel* -ISEASS). This project studies how violence against civilians impacts access to maternal and child health services in the Sahel region. Its objective is to contribute to identification of possible solutions to improve access to health care in areas of rising insecurity.

The project is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), has a total duration of 3 years (2024-2026) and involves researchers and collaborators from multiple countries (Canada, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger) and with diversified expertise. Although the study uses mixed methods, the main role for the postdoctoral candidate would be to analyze quantitative data. A set of large databases have already been collected from the countries of the study. The datasets include data on: i) the location, temporality and severity of episodes of violence against civilians (VAC) ii) data on the use of health services and (iii) more general data on the health system, in particular the location of health centers, their dates of operation, the population served. Cross-sectional secondary data available in open access websites, will have to be obtained. These include data on the region derived from satellite imagery (rainfall, temperature, land use, mining sites, etc.) and demographic estimates.

As a postdoctoral fellow, the candidate will be responsible for: cleaning and managing complex quantitative databases already collected (including longitudinal data); acquiring and managing additional geographic and demographic data; conducting analyses on associations and spatial-temporal relationships between VAC and health services utilisation, with appropriate quasi-experimental evaluation designs; and synthesizing the results in standard scientific formats.

Basic qualifications

- Doctorate (Ph.D.) in public or community health, epidemiology, demography, geography, environmental sciences, earth sciences, engineering, data science, health economics, or in a field relevant, obtained less than 5 years ago, or about to be obtained.
- Have at least one year of experience in developing and conducting research projects, including:
 - o Development of research protocol
 - o Preparation of protocols for ethical approvals
 - o Development of analysis plans
 - o Collection of primary data
 - o Data management and advanced quantitative analyses
 - o Preparation of scientific articles

Preferred qualifications

- Expertise working with large spatial data sets, particularly with geographic information systems (GIS) and in the use of geographic information software.
- Experience with longitudinal data analysis, statistical methods and associated statistical software.
- Experience in impact evaluation through robust quasi-experimental designs.
- Scientific publications as first author in internationally renowned journals and demonstrated interest in pursuing independent research.

- Excellent organizational skills, rigor, and ability to work independently.
- Interest in teamwork, in a multidisciplinary environment.
- Excellent communication skills in English. Good communication skills (oral or written) in French will be considered an asset.
- Demonstrated ability to synthesize scientific literature.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and experience working with research groups and non-academic partners.

Responsibilities

- Providing expertise in the analysis of quantitative and spatial data, in the ISEASS project.
- Clean and manage the quantitative databases already collected, extract additional environmental and spatial data and merge databases.
- Interpret data for publications and prepare scientific articles and communications (posters, presentations, etc.).
- Co-supervise team students in the ISEASS project.
- Contribute to methodological reinforcement workshops with students and partners of the SAPRIME laboratory.
- Perform any other task required during the fellowship.

Team

The successful candidate will be part of an interdisciplinary team established in the field of global health. The ISEASS project team, in Canada, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, includes researchers in the fields of global health, community health, qualitative research, insecurity, demography, sociology, political science, geography, gender. The fellow will be integrated into the “primary health, globalization and equity” research laboratory (SAPRIME), which is led by the project's principal investigator, Professor Thomas Druetz. This global health research laboratory takes a transnational, diachronic and dynamic approach to analyzing and improving health. Its work aims to highlight how globalization affects the health of populations, particularly in rural areas and low-income countries. The laboratory is part of the Public Health Research Center (CRéSP) located in Montreal.

Duration and location

The position has a duration of 12 months, renewable. It will begin as soon as the candidate is available, ideally by April or May 2024.

It's a full-time job, located at the School of Public Health of the University of Montreal (ESPUM), in Montreal, Canada. Flexible and hybrid working conditions are possible.

For candidates who are not citizens or permanent residents of Canada: a work permit is necessary to be a postdoctoral fellow in Canada. We will provide the candidate the necessary documentation to begin the procedures for the required work permit, if applicable.

Salary

\$45,000 CAN per year, depending on qualifications.

How to apply

To apply, send the following documents to federica.fregonese@umontreal.ca :

1. Curriculum Vitae;
2. Cover letter (one or two pages) indicating: key skills, previous research experience; relevant projects; interest in the project; expected date of availability, status in Canada (if applicable);
3. The names and contacts of two references.

Deadline to apply: March 31, 2024.

The University of Montreal subscribes to the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion in employment.