

Chaire AgroParisTech « SUEZ – Management général des services urbains d'eau et d'assainissement »

18-month postdoc proposal:

Institutional frameworks for effective urban sanitation in developing countries

Submission deadline: 1st of April 2019

Context:

The main purpose of this post doc is to contribute to a research program on institutional change for urban sanitation in the developing world. It is proposed by AgroParisTech, as part of its Chair “SUEZ – General Management of urban water and sanitation utilities”.

The Chair aims to facilitate access to basic services in developing and emerging countries by reinforcing professional skills of operational leaders and managers of urban water and sanitation services.

The research fellow will join AgroParisTech and its joint research unit « UMR G-EAU » (made up of researchers on water issues originating from 5 research and teaching institutions: AgroParisTech, CIRAD, IRD, Irstea, Montpellier SupAgro). She or he will work under the supervision of Dr. Marine Colon (<https://cv.archives-ouvertes.fr/marine-colon>).

UMR G-EAU is located in Montpellier, in the south of France. It is a leading research institution on pluridisciplinary approaches and develops applied research on water and sanitation. For more details, see: <http://www.g-eau.net>.

The Montpellier site of AgroParisTech is a leader in France in teaching on water and sanitation issues. It runs two executive post-Master programs on water and sanitation management, and two Master programs on water management with the University of Montpellier and Montpellier SupAgro.

Links:

Executive Master “Water Management” AgroParisTech

<http://www2.agroparistech.fr/-MS-Gestion-de-l-Eau-658-.html>

Executive Master “Water for all” AgroParisTech

<https://waterforall.utilities.management/courses/international-executive-master/>

Master Water AgroParisTech, Montpellier University and Montpellier SupAgro:

http://master-eau.um2.fr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=13&Itemid=33

Objectives:

This postdoctoral mission aims at enhancing our understanding of the relationship between institutional frameworks and urban sanitation in cities of developing countries. Sanitation will include grid, non-grid and drainage aspects. The focus is on cities. There is a growing awareness in urban sanitation studies that researching on institutions has become crucial. Few researchers have explored their effects on the development of effective sanitation. The analytical frame may be built from neo institutionalism. Institutions may be defined as: “regulative, normative, and cultural-cognitive elements that, together with associated activities and resources, provide stability and meaning to social life.” (Scott, 1995, p33)¹. Attention will be put on the three pillars of institutions (regulative, normative and cultural-cognitive), which induce different compliance mechanisms (coercive, normative and mimetic). Institutions will be analysed at the field level. Institutional framework relates to a specific combination of institutions.

The project aims at identifying institutions that favour the development of urban sanitation. To that aim, relationships between types of institutional frameworks and the level of development of urban sanitation need to be drawn. Institutional frameworks for urban sanitation in developing cities range from poor governance to socio-techno structures enabling effective management of the water cycle and the nexus between water, food and energy. They also range from scattered responsibilities for sanitation across various public ministries with little capacity and resource, and various private entities (NGOs, private service providers, communities...) with no coordination, to institutionalised fields, with institutions (values, legal frameworks, training institutes, contracts, performance measurement systems, professional associations, regulation frame, financing mechanisms, pricing policy). The researcher will draw connections between the stages of development of sanitation with types of institutional framework. The aim is not to seek for one best way, but rather to explore variety of effective institutional frameworks.

The specific role of the post doc is to conduct a thorough literature review from both empirical and theoretical papers so as to:

- propose an approach to analyse key components of institutional framework and if useful a typology of institutional framework;
- propose a typology of stages of development of sanitation infrastructures and services (see for the water sector: L. Guerin Schneider, P.L. Mayaux, M. Bourblanc, Marine Colon. Y a-t-il un sens de l'histoire dans les services d'eau ? Un modèle post-évolutionniste. Politiques et Management public, Institut de management public, 2016, 33 (1), pp.5-25.);
- analyse relationships between institutional framework and stage of development of sanitation field;
- propose a way forward for further research : methodology to conduct a survey, and case studies to analyse the history of institutional change (how institutional innovation occurred).

¹ Scott W. R., 1995, Institutions and Organizations, Ideas, Interests, and Identities, SAGE 360p

The research will include a fieldwork in at least one city, to deepen the understanding of key concepts and analyse key features of institutional framework and capture how institutional innovation occurred.

The researcher will contribute to the organisation of a scientific event that will be held on sanitation in Paris in March 2020 by French Development Agency (AFD) and the chair partners.

She or he will also write a paper submitted in a peer review journal.

Expected outputs:

- report on institutional framework for effective urban sanitation in developing countries with comparative case studies, typologies of institutional framework and stages of development of sanitation, and relationship between the two, and proposed way forward;
- methodology for a large-scale survey;
- oral presentation at the scientific event organised by the Chair on sanitation;
- a research paper in a peer-review international journal.

Work Plan and responsibilities:

- literature review
- interviews with experts / senior researchers
- fieldwork for a case study
- writing of a report and a scientific paper
- contribution to organising of a scientific meeting in March 2020 at French Development Agency in Paris on institutional issues on sanitation
- participation to regular meetings with JRU G-Eau and the chair scientific committee

Profile:

The candidate should have expertise and interest on institutional analysis, and optional skills on the water and sanitation sector.

A PhD in Economics, Public Management Sciences, Political Science is a plus. Experience working on water and sanitation sector will be appreciated.

Qualifications:

- Strong writing skills
- Familiarity of methods for institutional analysis,
- Familiarity of main qualitative et quantitative research methods
- Familiarity with bibliographical reference management software
- Good analytical skills
- Good relational abilities
- Good abilities to communicate and to popularize science
- Ability to speak and write working French and English
- Autonomy and organising skills

Knowledge and experience:

- Clear understanding of developing country context
- Experience on water and sanitation appreciated
- Knowledge on institutional analysis from economical or sociological theories

Benefits: depending on experience, based on AgroParisTech rules.

Resources:

An office, a computer, all traveling expenses covered, a library devoted to water and sanitation issues (<https://infodoc.agroparistech.fr/>).

A 6-month traineeship of a Master student will contribute to the work.

Submission:

CV, 2 page cover letter that explains interest for the position, outlines relevant skills and experience, writing sample (recent publication or dissertation chapter), 4-5 page proposal to present the applicant's approach to conduct this research work, 2 recommendation letters, past experience of research or operational work in Africa or Asia appreciated. Submission should be written in English or French.

Schedule for recruitment:

Call for interest: 25th of Feb 2019

Deadline for submission: 1st of April 2019

Interviews with pre selected candidates / choice: April 2019

Beginning: 1st June 2019

Contact: marine.colon@agroparistech.fr