

## **Topic: Institutions of Care: The Role of Early Childhood Investments for Historical Development**

Applications are invited for a PhD scholarship at the Department of Business and Economics, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, to be filled by January 1, 2019.

The PhD candidate will be part of the Historical Economics and Development Group (HEDG). Since its establishment in 2011, HEDG has been one of the fastest growing groups within economic history and is arguably one of the leading groups in Europe. The work carried out by the group can be described as quantitative economic history. More information about HEDG can be found at:

[https://www.sdu.dk/da/om\\_sdu/institutter\\_centre/ivoe\\_virksomhedsledelse\\_og\\_oekonomi/forskning/satsningsomraader/hedg](https://www.sdu.dk/da/om_sdu/institutter_centre/ivoe_virksomhedsledelse_og_oekonomi/forskning/satsningsomraader/hedg).

### **Job description**

The PhD position is funded by the Danish Research Council. The project is entitled “Institutions of Care: The Role of Early Childhood Investments for Historical Development” and its objective is to evaluate the economic effects of historical institutions of child care, such as nurseries and kindergartens. This is a highly relevant topic since those institutions have been found to mitigate income, health, and environmental shocks experienced during early childhood and are generally regarded as beneficial for the development of individuals’ economic success and well-being later in life (e.g., Heckman, 2006; Almond and Currie, 2011). Still, very little is known about the effects of institutions of child care on outcomes important for economic development when first established.

This project aims to shed new light on causal effects and mechanisms using state of the art microeconomic methods that exploit novel historical data on child care. In particular, the PhD candidate will work with large-scale historical microdata to evaluate how different historical institutions of child care affected the integration of immigrant children, crime, and other labor market outcomes.

The successful applicant must be able to demonstrate

1. Excellent Master degree in economics, economic history or other relevant disciplines
2. Profound knowledge of econometrics and identification strategies
3. Good knowledge of Stata or similar statistical programs (further knowledge in Python and GIS would be useful but not mandatory)
4. Excellent communication skills in English (enclosing results of TOEFL and GRE tests is encouraged but not mandatory)

Professor Philipp Ager ([phag@sam.sdu.dk](mailto:phag@sam.sdu.dk)) will be the PhD main supervisor and Professor Francesco Cinnirella ([cinnirella@sam.sdu.dk](mailto:cinnirella@sam.sdu.dk)) will act as co-supervisor. For more information about the position please contact both via email.

Information about the PhD program is available from [www.sdu.dk/sam/phduk](http://www.sdu.dk/sam/phduk). Further information can be obtained from the department's PhD coordinators Professor Paul Sharp ([pauls@sam.sdu.dk](mailto:pauls@sam.sdu.dk)).

### **Application, salary, requirements, etc.**

The application must include:

1. A detailed curriculum vitae
2. A certified copy of your master's degree certificate including all examination results
3. A motivational letter describing why the applicant is a good match for analyzing the topic (Institutions of Care: The Role of Early Childhood Investments for Historical Development) and how the applicant's skills provide a solid foundation to do so (max. 5 pages incl. reference list).
4. Application form (please see link below)

The scholarship runs for three years and starts on January 1, 2019. Apart from a highly competitive salary, you will be expected to complete a six-month stay at a research institution abroad (recent examples include Stanford, Brown, UC Davis, or the London School of Economics).

When applying for a PhD scholarship, please fill in the application form available on our website [www.sdu.dk/sam/phduk](http://www.sdu.dk/sam/phduk). Here, you will also find guidelines for preparing your project proposal in Economics. All non-Danish documents must be translated into English.

Applications will be assessed by a committee. When the evaluation committee has submitted its report, the applicant will receive the part of the evaluation that concerns him/her.

Applications that are incomplete regarding the above requirements will not be assessed by the committee. As part of the overall assessment of the applicant's qualifications, an interview may be applied. The University encourages all interested persons to apply, regardless of age, gender, religious affiliation or ethnic background.

Applications must be submitted electronically **by October 31, 2018** using the following link below:

[https://www.sdu.dk/en/service/ledige\\_stillinger/1001143](https://www.sdu.dk/en/service/ledige_stillinger/1001143)

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