

PH.D. STUDENTSHIP on the Sociology of Genomics and Biobanking in Asia

Nanyang Technological University - School of Social Sciences

Location: Singapore
Salary: SG 24,000
Hours: Full Time
Contract Type: 4 years
Placed On: September 2018
Closes: November 15th 2018

Online Application:

<http://www.sss.ntu.edu.sg/Programmes/Graduate/ProspectiveStudents/Pages/How-to-Apply.aspx>

Hours: Full time

Closing date: 15th November 2018

Interview Date: Skype interviews to be arranged for shortlisted candidates

Start date: August 2019

Project Description: Biobanks are a growing phenomenon in global biomedicine, as they are a key tool of precision medicine initiatives. National biobanks, however, collect data and biological material from populations in specific regions, and the knowledge that national biobanks yield can impact understandings of identity, origins, and belonging. The ultimate goal of this kind of large-scale genetic database projects is to bridge individual molecular-genetic readings with clinical diagnostics. The knowledge that biobanks can afford is thought to reveal how the diverse genetic makeup of populations relates to individuals' varying responses to treatments. Consequently, massive databases are being established, collating family genealogies, disease histories, drug sensitivities, and genomic data, in integrated systems. We are thus seeing the development of genetics into a large-scale operation with massive scaling up of the amount of data and the rate at which it can be analyzed.

The student will investigate the relationships between global biobanking trends, precision medicine initiatives, national scientific development goals, and ethnic and national identity. How is biobanking part of the development of a network of 'global science? How does the genomic analysis of ethnic populations challenge or promote the understanding of the nation as a natural or biological cohort? How is economic value condensed in genomic data? And how can these questions

help theorize the relationships between global market values and ethnic identity in the 21st century?

The successful candidate will hold a bachelors or masters degree in the social sciences, preferably STS, sociology, anthropology, or a closely related discipline.

Candidates must have excellent academic writing and communication skills in English. Ideally the candidate will have experience and knowledge of Asia and will be prepared for the cultural and linguistic context of the research.

For further information about the position, contact Professor Ian McGonigle:
ianmcgonigle@ntu.edu.sg