

Postdoc Position in ERC Project “DIGINEQ”

3-Year Postdoc Position:

“Adolescent Well-Being, Digital Lives and Social Inequalities: Computational Social Science Approaches”

PI: Prof. Pablo Gracia



Postdoctoral Position:

The [Centre for Demographic Studies \(CED\)](#) and [Department of Sociology](#) from [Autonomous University of Barcelona \(UAB\)](#) are looking for an outstanding social scientist to fill in a 3-year postdoctoral position funded by the [ERC Consolidator Grant](#) project **DIGINEQ – “Digital Time Use, Adolescent Well-Being, and Social Inequalities”** (PI: [Prof. Pablo Gracia](#)). In **DIGINEQ**, you will conduct outstanding original research that will contribute to build an innovative conceptual and empirical framework to study how adolescents’ digital use influences their well-being (i.e., mental health and academic outcomes) across demographic and socioeconomic groups

As new postdoc of DIGINEQ, you will lead cutting-edge, interdisciplinary, multi-method research in close collaboration with the PI, other postdocs and PhDs from DIGINEQ by focusing on two main research tasks: (1) analysing rich mobile-app data with advanced longitudinal computational tracking techniques to add to our understanding of how inequalities in adolescents’ digital use and well-being work in daily life in contemporary societies; (2) contributing to implement and/or analyse novel data from RCT digital interventions with schools, families and adolescents to produce unique evidence with computational and mixed-method designs on the role of such programmes in promoting and equalising adolescent healthy digital engagement linked to positive mental well-being and school outcomes.

In your postdoc role within DIGINEQ, you will be fully integrated into an ambitious ERC project within Prof. Gracia’s research team at CED/UAB. In your daily academic life, you will be actively involved as part of a large internationally-oriented interdisciplinary centre of scientific excellence in population research ([CED](#)) and into a large and leading department in social sciences within the Spanish/European context ([Sociology UAB](#)). You will also connect to a vibrant international network of collaborators/partners doing cutting-edge interdisciplinary research on areas like child/adolescent well-being and mental health, inequalities and social stratification, population and demography, digital media, computational and digital social sciences, social psychology, education, and school interventions.

- **Payment: €42,396 annual gross salary** (~ €2,600 net monthly salary).
- **Travel/training/conference support: €9,000** (€3,000 per year).

Key requirements and skills:

- PhD completed or close to completion in a relevant discipline for this position (e.g., sociology, population sciences, psychology, computational social science, media and communication, computer science, economics, education). PhD degree must be completed, or thesis officially submitted, when you start with the position;
- Excellent scientific/publication record according to level of career experience;
- Substantive expertise in at least one of the key areas of this call: adolescent well-being; inequalities and stratification; digital media; computational sciences; family research; school-level RCT interventions;
- Excellent methodological skills in social science research design, with particular emphasis on at least one of these: (i) advanced statistical modelling, (ii) computational methodologies (e.g., big-data, AI, mobile-app data tracking); (iii) mixed-method designs (e.g., combining survey data with focus groups and qualitative interviews);
- Experience in working with complex data, ideally complex statistical/computational data;
- Proficiency in, or interest to get familiarised with, relevant statistical software (e.g., R, Stata, Python);
- Interest in contributing to designing digital interventions and RCT school-based interventions;

- Willingness to keep learning and innovating using pioneering tools and methods in the field;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English;
- Ambition and proven ability to produce high-quality research and publications;
- Ability to work effectively with high levels of independence;
- Proactive attitude and ability to work as part of a team.

Desirable additional requirements and skills:

The following are “not” essential to the position, but would add to the project:

- Experience in leading primary data collection (e.g., with families, youth and education stakeholders);
- Strong leadership skills to arrange work with PhD researchers and RAs as part of a team;
- Interest and willingness to pursue future projects/grants in the field;
- Experience or interest in narrative qualitative data with relevant software (e.g., Nvivo);
- Basic knowledge of Spanish or Catalan or interest in learning basic Spanish or Catalan during your post.

What we offer you

- A 3-year postdoctoral position to conduct cutting-edge research on adolescent well-being, digitalisation and digital media, computational social sciences, social inequalities, and population research;
- An academic context of scientific excellence and very friendly work environment;
- Proactive career mentoring and continuous support and guidance for future career development;
- Close contact and collaboration with leading national and international networks in the field;
- Opportunity to develop your own research agenda and career opportunities;
- Competitive salary/contract starting at €42,396 gross annual payment (~ €2,600 net monthly salary);
- Generous travel, conference, and training support: €9,000 (€3,000 per year).

Application & Selection Process:

Candidates must apply through sending all their application documents (in PDF format) by email to digineq@ced.uab.es adding pgracia@ced.uab.es as cc. Please write “**Postdoc DIGINEQ**” in the subject line. The application must include the following items no later than the deadline:

- Motivation letter detailing how your research profile and interests relate to the project (2 pages max).
- CV in English (use your preferred format and length).
- Two research samples written in English (e.g., scientific papers) that demonstrate the candidate’s relevant research skills for this postdoctoral position.
- Contact details of 2 referees (references will only be requested from shortlisted candidates).
- Copy of your ID/Passport.
- Copy of degree certificates.

- **Deadline:** Tuesday, December 3rd 2024, at 1pm (13:00) CET (Spanish local time).

- **Interview Procedure:** Online interviews will be scheduled for the week after the deadline (i.e. week from 9th to 13th of December). Shortlisted candidates will be contacted very fast after the deadline with all relevant details.

- **Starting date:** Starting date is flexible and negotiable. Ideally from March to September 2025 to coordinate well with the project calendar (the candidate cannot start later than October 2025).

- **Queries:** Feel free to ask any questions to the PI. Informal inquiries are strongly encouraged by emailing directly to Prof. Pablo Gracia at: pgracia@ced.uab.es