PhD Position in ERC Project "DIGINEQ"

4-Year PhD position on:
"Adolescent Well-Being, Digital Media and Social Inequalities"

PI: Prof. Pablo Gracia

PhD 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 4-year PhD 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 research to write a PhD thesis 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 a PhD researcher of DIGINEQ, you will write a cutting-edge PhD thesis in the social sciences, working in close collaboration with the PI, postdocs, and other PhDs from DIGINEQ, to contribute to at least one of these research topics:

(1) The role of digital media engagement and mobile phone use in shaping inequalities in young people's present and future well-being outcomes (e.g., mental well-being, physical health, educational performance) in contemporary societies, applying advanced social science methodologies with particular emphasis on digital social research and computational methods.

(2) The study of digital interventions targeting schools, families and adolescents to promote healthy digital behaviours linked to positive well-being outcomes (e.g., mental health, affect, pro-social behaviour, school outcomes) across demographic and socioeconomic groups, using advanced statistical methods or in-depth mixed-method designs trough combining quantitative and qualitative methodologies.

(3) The impact of online transformations and digital revolutions at the micro/meso/macro levels on adolescent well-being and opportunities in societies, employing advanced statistical modelling (e.g. longitudinal modelling, multilevel hierarchical modelling, difference-in-difference designs) and/or computational methodologies in the social sciences (e.g., big-data techniques, social media tracking analyses, mobile-app methods).

As a new PhD researcher of 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: **€27,000 annual gross salary** (~ €1,800 net monthly salary).
- Travel/training/conference support: **€10,000** (€2,500 per year).
- Fees, social security and employment benefits: all covered.

Key requirements and skills:

- BA or MA/MSc in a relevant discipline for this position (e.g., sociology, population sciences, psychology, computational social sciences, human-computer interaction; media and communication; economics; education; social policy);
- Excellent academic record according to level of experience to date;

- Interest and strong potential to contribute to at least one of the key areas of this call (e.g., adolescent well-being; inequalities and stratification; digital media; family research; school-level RCT interventions);
- Exceptional 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);
- Strong experience in working with complex quantitative and/or qualitative data in social sciences;
- Proficiency to manage, or potential to get familiarised with, statistical software (e.g., R, Stata, Python);
- Interest in contributing to primary data collection with families, educators, and adolescents;
- Willingness to keep learning and innovating to use pioneering tools and methods in this field;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English;
- Ambition and ability to produce and publish high-quality research in the social sciences;
- Ability to effectively conduct research independently;
- Ability to work proactively 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, education stakeholders or related);
- Experience or interest in narrative/qualitative data with related software (e.g., Nvivo);
- Leadership in organising and designing focus groups with different relevant actors;
- Interest and willingness to pursue future projects/grants in this research field;
- Basic knowledge of Spanish or Catalan or interest in learning basic Spanish or Catalan during your post.

What we offer you

- A 4-year PhD position to conduct cutting-edge research on adolescent well-being, digitalisation and digital media, computational social sciences, social inequalities, population research, and digital interventions;
- 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;
- 4-year PhD contract with €27,000 annual gross salary (~ €1,800 net monthly salary).
- Generous travel, conference, and training support of €10,000 (~ €2,500 per year).
- All PhD fees covered by the project, with standard job benefits and social security covered.

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 **"PhD Position 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 demonstrating the candidate's relevant skills.
- 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: Negotiable, even if expected starting date is September 2025 to make it in coordination with the academic 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**