

Post-doc position in avian epigenetics available starting Autumn 2021!

We seek an enthusiastic Post-doc interested in joining the EvoGen lab (principal investigator, Dr. Toni Gossmann) at Bielefeld University (<https://tgossmann.github.io/>). Our lab focuses on approaches and data analysis to identify epigenetic imprints of selection in natural populations, making use of newly available biodiversity data produced through next and 3rd generation sequencing approaches.

Project

One of the best understood epigenetic marks is DNA methylation. Pattern and dynamics of DNA methylation are remarkably diverse across taxonomic groups. In mammals and birds DNA methylation is largely specific to CpG sites with generally very high methylation levels in somatic cells. However, the most dramatic changes of DNA methylation levels take place during embryo development with phases of global CpG methylation levels dropping close to zero. The aim of the project is to investigate the role of DNA methylation in the germline across selected avian species, including samples obtained from natural populations, such as in great tits (*Parus major*).

Requirements and position details

The applicant needs to hold PhD in a relevant discipline at time of start date and have wet-lab experience (e.g. DNA/RNA extraction, tissue preparation, PCR,...) as well as a background and/or interest in **at least one** of the following subjects, ideally in an avian context:

- Embryo biology
- Genomics
- Epigenetics
- Field work experience
- Population genetics

Anticipated start date for this Post-doc position is winter semester 2021 (**1.10.2021**), though the exact start date is negotiable. The position is open to National and International applicants (EU and worldwide) and funded for 2.5 years (TV-L E13, 100%) by the European Union as part of the ERC starting grant "DECAF".

Some exposure to statistics and programming is expected, though mastery of these tools is not required and there will be ample opportunity to continue to build and refine your skills through mentorship and collaboration in our lab. A ringing license and extensive field work experience is a plus.

How to apply

Interested applicants are encouraged to send the following materials:

- Cover letter discussing their interest in joining the lab
- CV, including contact details of two references
- Copies of undergraduate and graduate transcripts

to **Dr. Toni Gossmann** (toni.gossmann@uni-bielefeld.de) preferably as a **single PDF** until **22nd of July, 2021** including the position ID **WISS21715** in the Email subject line.

Full position advertisement: https://uni-bielefeld.hr4you.org/job/view/622/wissenschaftliche-r-mitarbeiter-in-m-w-d-im-bereich-evolutionaere-genetik-decaf-postdoc?page_lang=de

About Bielefeld: With a population of over 330,000 (and constantly on the rise), Bielefeld is one of the 20 largest cities in Germany. Its residents particularly appreciate the high quality of life, the advantages of a strong economic location and the range of educational and scientific facilities. More than one billion euros has been invested by the State of North Rhine-Westphalia into Campus Bielefeld, shared between Bielefeld University and the University of Applied Sciences. This has resulted in one of the most modern facilities for education and research in Germany. Few cities are as green as Bielefeld, thanks to its location amid the Teutoburg Forest, numerous parks as well as green transport corridors, with 762 kilometres of footpaths traversing the city area. For more of a city buzz, visit Siegfried Platz – known affectionately to locals as "Siggi" – in Bielefeld West, as well as Kesselbrink and Boulevard.

