



We are looking for a talented and motivated researcher (PhD Student) to advance the following research project:

Early Stage Researcher (ESR 9) Defining a relational approach to TOD for inclusive and sustainable RURs
An Innovative Training Network in Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) for Rural-Urban Regions
TOD-IS-RUR is looking for talented and motivated candidates with the skills, knowledge, and enthusiasm to help the Innovative Training Network (ITN) make significant research contributions to the scientific and societal challenge of countering sprawl in Europe. The 9 Beneficiaries and 12 Partner Organizations create a unique platform for 10 Early Stage Researchers (ESRs), providing interdisciplinary and intersectoral training to analyze rural-urban placemaking and develop novel, context-based planning schemes for rural-urban regions (RURs). The network aims to extend the concept of Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) to RURs with a context-based approach, in which interactions between mobility and urbanization are studied in relation to social and environmental qualities. Drawing on a wide range of European RURs and bringing in expertise from urban studies, research and training prepare a new generation of highly-skilled professionals able to meet the challenge of sprawl and implement inclusive and sustainable planning schemes for RURs.
Description of the research project (ESR9)
Scientific objectives This ESR-project aims to explore, test, and define the theoretical and methodological possibilities of the burgeoning field of relational geography to capture and intervene in socio-environmental aspects of dynamic mobility-urbanization relations in RURs. This project will mobilize relational geography as an innovative path to move from a-contextual geometric approach to dynamic relations in which people, matter, technologies, institutions, and landscape assets exist in context-specific assemblages, holding diversity together without losing heterogeneity. The project will develop an interdisciplinary approach in tandem with the empirics and insights of ESR1-8, thus formulating new context-based TOD approaches, extending TOD to an inclusive and sustainable concept for RURs.
Tasks and Responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ You perform independently scientific research within a collaborative international research consortium.▪ You deliver written reports of your research on a regular basis.▪ You prepare a doctoral thesis on the topic of a relational approach to TOD for RURs.▪ You publish scientific articles related to the research project.▪ You support the valorization of research results into tangible deliverables.▪ You participate in and contribute to scientific meetings and conferences, presenting your research to the scientific community.▪ You actively participate in outreach activities aimed at promoting your research to a wider audience.▪ You collaborate with the other members of the consortium to advance your research and training.▪ You participate in the tailored training program.▪ The selected candidate will take part in the following planned secondment: Academic secondment to the Department of Urban and Rural Development, Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet (SLU) (5 months, Sweden)) for a complementary landscape approach to relational geography.
About the University of Antwerp – The Urban Studies Institute and Centre for Urban History
The Urban Studies Institute (USI) at the University of Antwerp is a platform and laboratory for the development of interdisciplinary research and education on cities, urban development and urban challenges. The Institute also functions as a contact point and interface for exchanges with non-academic players, such as policy-makers, city administrations, and civil society, and for services related to urban development and policy. USI regularly participates in a number of EU-funded and other research projects and networks. The Centre for Urban History is an international acknowledged research center focusing on urban societies, structures and processes in a historical perspective. It approaches urban history as a part of the inclusive field of urban studies, comprising interdisciplinary insights from e.g. urban sociology, planning and architecture, urban governance and environmental sciences.
Profile and requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ You hold a master's degree in Urban Studies, Planning, Landscape Studies or Geography, or other master's degree with relevant expertise in relations between transport and urbanization. Master students in their final year may apply. Final selection under the condition of showing transcripts of their master's degree in July (15th at the latest).▪ You have outstanding academic records.▪ You are interested in interdisciplinary, theory-driven research and have strong analytical skills.



- You are quality-oriented, conscientious, creative, and a team player.
- You have strong communication skills.
- Language proficiency: excellent use of English is essential (C1 level minimum).
- Applicants must fulfill the general eligibility requirements for enrollment as a PhD student at the [University of Antwerp](#).
- Applicants can be of any nationality but have to comply with the H2020 MSCA eligibility criteria:
H2020 MSCA Mobility Rule: researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the host organization for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment date. Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention are not taken into account.
H2020 MSCA ESR eligibility criteria: Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) must be, at the date of recruitment by the host organization, in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree. Full-Time Equivalent Research Experience is measured from the date when the researcher obtained the degree entitling him/her to embark on a doctorate (either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited, even if a doctorate was never started or envisaged).

Benefits

- The guaranteed PhD funding is for 36 months (i.e., EC funding). In line with university regulations and following a positive evaluation, the host institution can provide additional funding for a maximum of 12 months to complete a doctoral degree.
- The start date will be October 1st, 2021.
- A competitive salary, plus allowances. Moreover, funding is available for technical and personal skills training and participation in international research events.
- The selected candidate will benefit from the designed training program offered by the host organization and the TOD-IS-RUR consortium.
- The selected candidate will participate in international secondments to other organizations within the TOD-IS-RUR network and in outreach activities targeted at a wide audience.

Application

How to apply:

- The closing date for applications is March 29th, 2021.
- Please apply through the University of Antwerp's online job application platform. First, complete the eligibility check form. Secondly, complete the online application form and be sure to include the following attachments: Motivation letter (max. 2 pages); CV (Europass format, including a list of all countries of residence in the last 4 years); Details of at least two referees or two reference letters; Copies of certificates (Bachelor & Master's degrees with the list of completed modules, English and other language certificates); Work samples (e.g., publications; Master's thesis summary); List of publications (if any).
- The selection committee will review all of the applications as soon as possible after the application deadline. As soon as a decision has been made, we will inform you about the next steps in the selection procedure. The online recruitment event with the shortlisted candidates will be organized in the first week of May.
- The recruitment process of ESRs within TOD-IS-RUR is in line with the principles set out in the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

For more detailed information about the selection process and links to the application portal:

<https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/projects/tod-is-rur/jobs/>

For additional information

Prof. Greet De Block (supervisor)
Prof. Mattias Qviström (co-supervisor)
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