PhD researcher in Medical Anthropology / Sociology

Location: Amsterdam School of Social science Research (ASSR) University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
Closing date: August 31, 2007.
Vacancy: PhD researcher in Medical Anthropology / Sociology.
Research to work on the program ‘Reaching the poor in Ghana’s National Health Insurance’.

The program
The program is a collaboration between Ghana Health Services (GHS), the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), the Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Center (RUNMC), University of Amsterdam, and ErasmusMC Rotterdam (all in The Netherlands), and funded by the Dutch funding body Science for Global Development (NWO/WOTRO).
The program aims to design and evaluate interventions to stimulate enrolment in mutual health organisations (MHO), with special focus on the poor, and consists of three related projects. Project 1 analyses the impact, costs and process of problem solving programs to remove barriers to enrolment at the level of the community, the MHO and the health provider. Project 2 analyses the impact and costs of different approaches to identify the poor in order to target premium exemptions, in two different communities. In addition, project 3 evaluates the impact of enrolment on health care utilization, with special reference to the poor. All projects are carried out in both rural and urbanized communities in Ghana. The PhD researcher’s task will be to study and report on the above questions by a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. He/she will primarily work in project 1 but will assist in projects 2 and 3 where necessary.

Requirements
The successful candidate will have:
• An MA/MSc/Mphil in a social science discipline and preferably affinity with the field of health and/or economics
• Experience with or knowledge of public health in Ghana;
• Both qualitative and quantitative research skills and be able to provide evidence of this in earlier work;
• Ability to critically appraise evidence and write reports and manuscripts, and able to provide evidence of this;
• Excellent communication skills;
• Good command of English in speaking and writing;
• A strong ambition to complete a PhD thesis;
• A willingness to spend time intervals in the Netherlands;
**Responsibilities**
The position requires full time commitment, will be varied and will require involvement in the full range of activities handled in the project. The work is part of a larger program, and requires intensive interaction with the program leader. You are expected to i) initiate problem-solving programs in health insurance in several communities; ii) analyse costs and process of the problem-solving programs; and iii) report on this in the international literature. The job will also include certain management tasks. A large part of the assignment will be carried out in Ghana, in combination with regular visits (1-3 months) to RUNMC for data analysis and drafting of research papers. The PhD researcher will be offered a four-year scholarship, which is expected to result in a PhD. The candidate commits him/herself to work a minimum of two years in Ghana after the completion of the PhD.

**Financial matters**

The living allowance for the candidate will be maximally € 700.-- per month during his/her stay in Ghana and maximally € 1,100.-- per month during thei stay in the Netherlands. Travel costs, costs for fieldwork, etc. will be reimbursed.

**Training and time schedule**

The candidate will be requested to follow a training programme at the University of Amsterdam during the first year. The second year is spent in Ghana for field research. During the third and fourth year the candidate will be partly in The Netherlands and partly in Ghana.

**Contact and application**
Candidates should send their application letter, CV and names plus email addresses of two references before 31 August to
-Dr. D.K. Arhinful (NMIMR) Email: darhinfu@noguchi.mimcom.net

More information about the research project and the position can also be obtained from Dr. Arhinful.