

Jacqui Shykoff

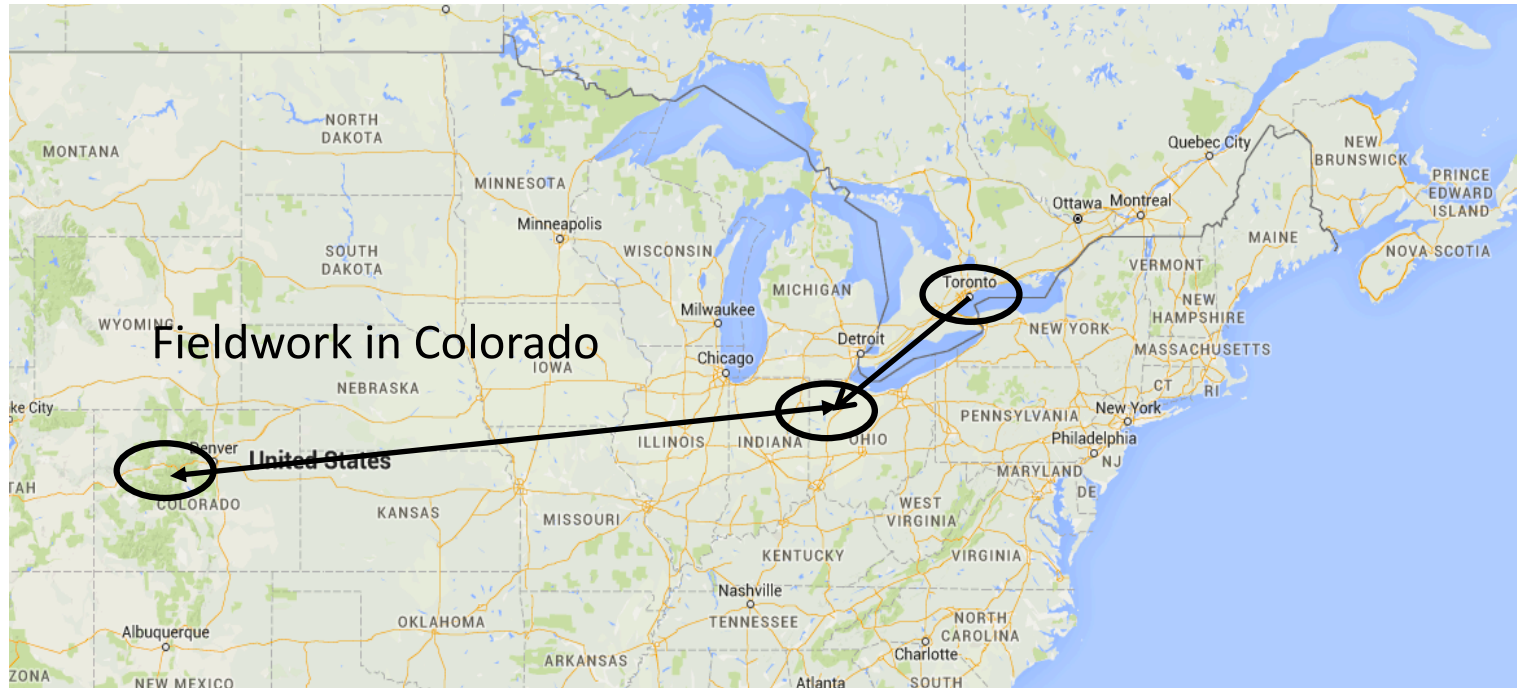
- CNRS Researcher in Evolutionary Ecology
- Director of a Doctoral School 2010-2019
- Comité Nationale CNRS
- Many recruitment committees of researchers and university lecturers and professors.



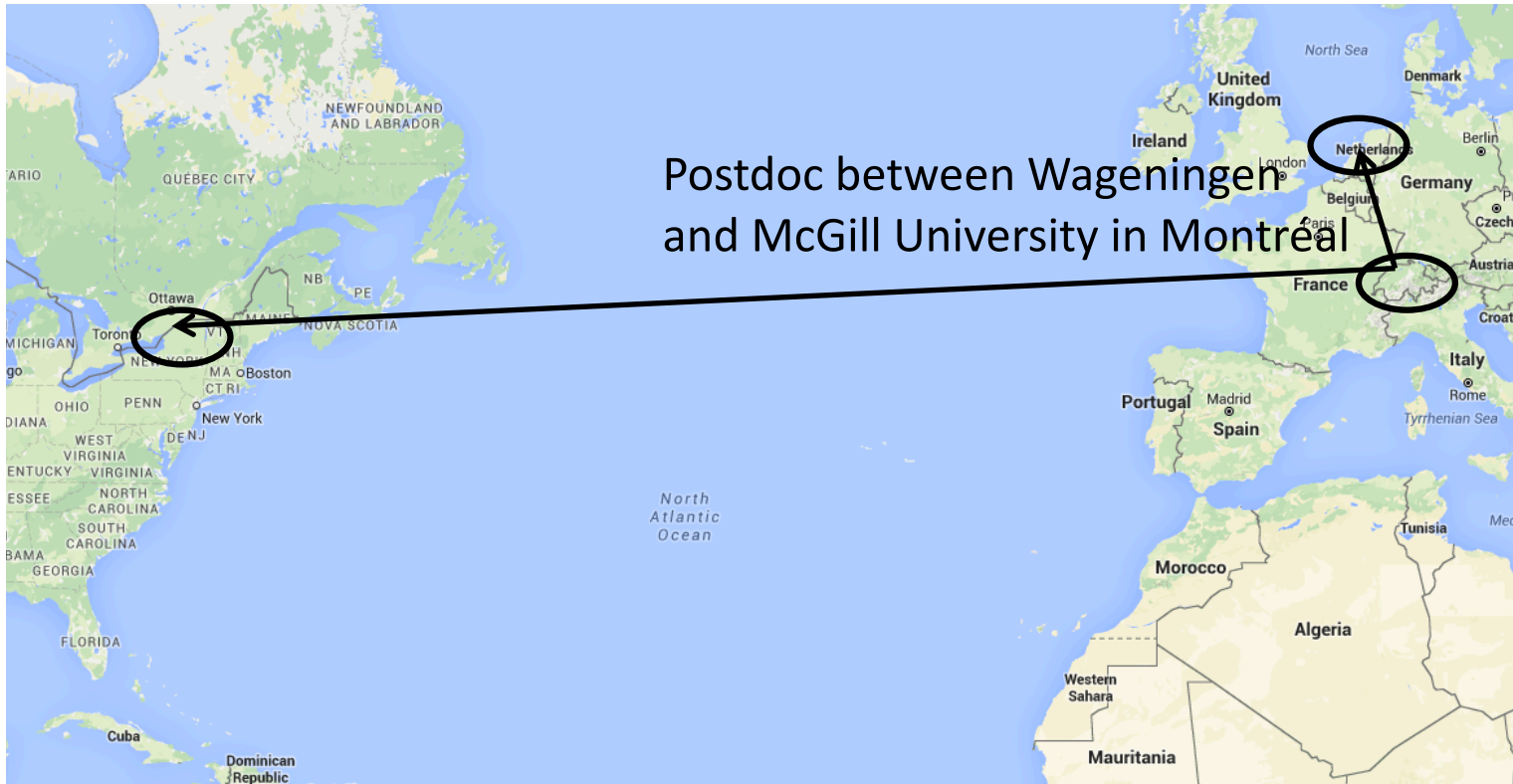
Undergraduate at University of Toronto







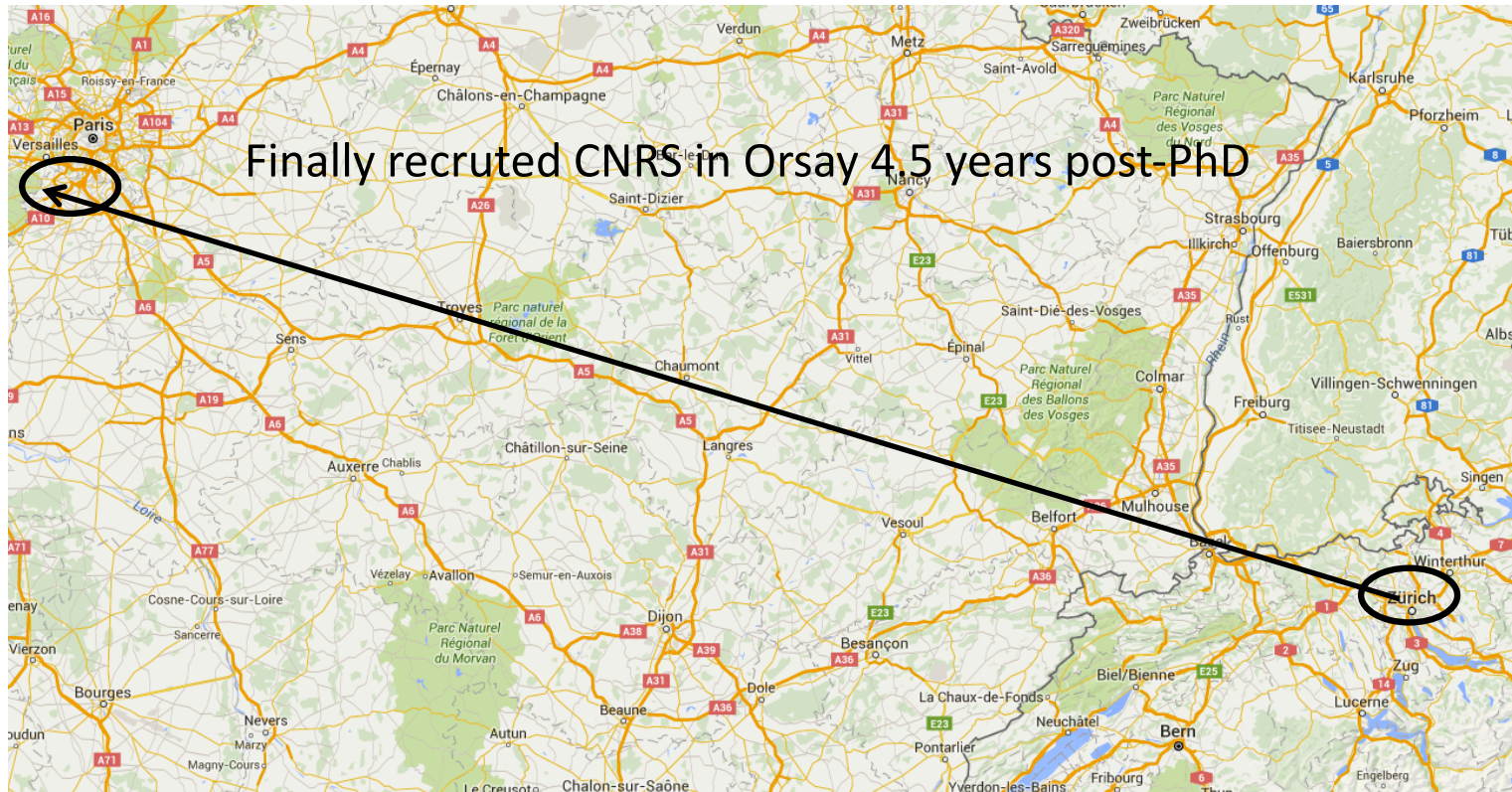




Postdoc between Wageningen
and McGill University in Montréal



"Assistentin" at
ETH - Zürich



Finally recruited CNRS in Orsay 4.5 years post-PhD

Sabbatical year in Oslo 2009-2010



Why do a post doc?

Why do a post doc?

learning new things

developing a professional network

improving cv

improving employability

Why do a professional project?

learning new things

developing a professional network

improving

improving employability

PROFESSIONAL PROJECT

IT IS NOT TOO EARLY TO START THINKING
ABOUT YOUR POST DOC PROJECT !

Where to do a post doc?

Where to do a post doc?

Same country as your doctorate?

A different country/region/language than your doctorate?

With whom to do a post doc?

How do you find a postdoc supervisor??

With whom to do a post doc?

How do you find a postdoc supervisor??

READ

GO TO CONFERENCES

TALK TO PEOPLE

With whom to do a post doc?

What criteria are important in choice of a supervisor??

With whom to do a post doc?

What criteria are important in choice of a supervisor??

REPUTATION

INTEGRITY (DOES SHE TREAT HER STUDENTS WELL?)

GOOD, STIMULATING ENVIRONMENT

IS IT A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN LIVE HAPPILY?

What kind of post doc?

What kind of post doc?

A project financed by an institution or a PI

A personal project financed by a public or private funder

How to find a post doc?

How to find a post doc?

Look at the postdoc job listings.

Find a senior scientist with whom you want to work.

Contact this person and explain your interest.

Propose something interesting, exciting, complementary to their work

How to write a good letter

A good letter:

shows you are interesting

shows you have good ideas about the subject

shows you are active (as the opposite of passive)

Some basic advice

NEVER USE “To whom it may concern”

NEVER ADDRESS SOMEONE AS “MADAM OR SIR”

ALWAYS ADDRESS SOMEONE AS “Dr. X”

ALWAYS EXPLAIN WHY YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS PARTICULAR PROJECT.

Elements of a good letter

Explain your interest in the person you are writing to –
START THE LETTER ABOUT THEM!

Elements of a good letter

Dear Dr. XXX,

I am writing to you because ...

your recent publication on x caught my eye because ...

I have been reading your work about xx because it is relevant to my current project ...

I have been following your work for a while because xxx and wanted to discuss the possibility of my joining your lab for a post-doc.

I heard your talk at meeting X and would like to discuss...

Elements of a good letter

Explain your interest in the person you are writing to –
START THE LETTER ABOUT THEM!

Explain who you are.

Elements of a good letter

Dear Dr. XXX,

I am writing to you because ...

I am currently a doctoral researcher working on ...

I will finish and defend my thesis in about one year/one week/6 months ...

Elements of a good letter

Explain your interest in the person you are writing to –
START THE LETTER ABOUT THEM!

Explain who you are.

Explain what you want

Elements of a good letter

Dear Dr. XXX,

I am writing to you because ...

I am currently a doctoral researcher working on ...

I will finish and defend my thesis in about one year ...

I would be interested in joining your lab as a post-doc researcher to do ... (propose something interesting or mention an advertised job AND propose something interesting)

How to find a post doc?

The screenshot shows the Nature Careers website interface. At the top, there are navigation links: 'Indep Err', 'BiblioVIE', 'Apple', 'Login - SSO U...té Paris-Sud', 'presse à huile', and 'Login - CAS -...ation Service'. Below this is a search bar with the text 'Search over 2,000 science jobs | Nature Careers' and a 'Favorites' link. The 'nature careers' logo is prominently displayed, along with a 'Post a Job' button. A search bar contains the text 'postdoc' and 'Location' with a search icon. Below the search bar, the 'Search results' section is visible. It includes a 'Discipline' filter with a list of categories and their counts: Life Science (242), Biomedicine (137), Physics (75), Health Science (63), Computing (36), Chemistry (31), Engineering (25), Earth Science (15), Applied Science (10), Environmental Science (10), and Mathematics (1). There is also a 'Job Type' filter with categories: Postdoctoral (42), PhD Studentship (9), and Researcher (8). The main content area shows 'We found 75 Jobs' and a 'Sort by' dropdown set to 'Most Relevant'. Two 'SPOTLIGHTED JOBS' are featured: 1. 'Postdoctoral Fellow in Biomedical Optics and Medical Physics' at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (UT Southwestern Medical Center) in Dallas, United States, posted 4 weeks ago. 2. 'Postdoc position in bio-electronics for energy harvesting from living...' at the Italian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Genoa, Italy. Both featured jobs have a red 'Featured' banner in the top right corner.

Indep Err ▾ BiblioVIE Apple ▾ Login - SSO U...té Paris-Sud presse à huile Login - CAS -...ation Service

Search over 2,000 science jobs | Nature Careers Favorites

nature careers Post a Job

postdoc Location 🔍

Search results

We found 75 Jobs Sort by Most Relevant ▾


Discipline

<input type="checkbox"/> Life Science	242
<input type="checkbox"/> Biomedicine	137
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Physics	75
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Science	63
<input type="checkbox"/> Computing	36
<input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry	31
<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	25
<input type="checkbox"/> Earth Science	15
<input type="checkbox"/> Applied Science	10
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Science	10
<input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics	1

Job Type

<input type="checkbox"/> Postdoctoral	42
<input type="checkbox"/> PhD Studentship	9
<input type="checkbox"/> Researcher	8

SPOTLIGHTED JOBS




Postdoctoral Fellow in Biomedical Optics and Medical Physics

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (UT Southwestern Medical Center)

📍 Dallas, United States

4 weeks ago

Featured



Postdoc position in bio-electronics for energy harvesting from living...

Italian Institute of Technology (IIT)

📍 Genoa, Italy

Featured



The job board for software and tech experts in Europe

Euro★TechJobs
Software And Tech Jobs In Europe

Euro★ScienceJobs

JOB SEARCH ▾ MY PROFILE ▾ JOB ALERTS POST A JOB RECRUITERS

Postdoc Physics Jobs

Physics ✕ Postdoc ✕ Clear all

- Keyword or job title -

- Country or city -

SEARCH JOBS

Jobs By Category

- Biology (107)
- Chemistry (52)
- Earth Science (29)



Research Fellow in Radiation Detection and Measurement

University of Sussex - School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences
Sussex, United Kingdom

The successful candidate will play a major role in the development of novel instrumentation for radiation detection. It is hoped that the successful candidate will become a...

Posted 3 days ago Deadline 24 May

Save this job ☆



Postdoctoral Fellow in Instrumentation for CMB Experiments

Stockholm University - Department of Physics

Physics & Astronomy Postdocs jobs

Browse Search

Keywords

Search

Broaden your search

- Postdocs 352
- Postdocs, Physical Sciences 120
- Academic Posts, Physics & Astronomy 188

Refine your search

▼ Job Type

Academic Posts, Postdocs X

▼ Academic Discipline

Physical Sciences, Physics & X

Get new jobs for this search by email


Create alert

Found 53 jobs

PREMIUM JOB

Research Associate in Lung Imaging

- Sydney, Australia
- Base salary of \$95-105 K p.a., plus 17% superannuation and leave loading
- UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY



We are seeking a Postdoctoral Research Associate in Lung Imaging to develop methods and clinical trials ...

View details

2 days ago | Save

PREMIUM JOB

Job Listings [Physics, URMs]

Find by ID# or keywords all? --- [sort alphabetically] [by postdate] [by enddate] [by deadline] [by startdate] [by distance] [by status] [by types] [by country/state] [show map] ---

All, +(2), Accelerator and Beam Physics(1), Accelerator Physics(2), AdS/CFT(6), AdS/CFT; AdS/CMT; quantum entanglement; quantum gravity; chaos and non-equilibrium dynamics; conformal bootstrap(2), AMO (Atomic, Molecular, and Optical)(1), Applied Energy research(1), Applied Physics(1), artificial gauge fields(1), Astronomical Instrumentation(1) ...more...

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z All     

Aarhus University, Department of Chemistry, AmoLab

1. [PHD] PhD scholarship for Developing Novel Amorphous Metals for 3D-printed Biomedical Implants (2022/05/01 11:59PM)
2. [POSTDOCFELLOWSHIP] Postdoc for Phase-Change Materials Research with Ultrafast X-rays (2022/05/01 11:59PM)

Academia Sinica, Administration Office of Institute of physics

1. [ICPD2022] IceCube postdoc at Academia Sinica, Taiwan (deadline 2022/04/17 11:59PM) [Apply](#)
2. [MHEPTH21] Faculty Position for experimental Medium and High-energy Physics (2022/06/30 11:59PM) [Apply](#)
3. [PABS1] Faculty positions in Soft Matter physics, Biophysics, Fluid physics and Nonequilibrium Statistical Physics (2022/06/30 11:59PM) [Apply](#)
4. [POSTDOCHETG22A] Postdoctoral research fellow on theoretical particle, nuclear, and astroparticle physics (deadline 2022/04/04 11:59PM) [Apply](#)
5. [QMP1] FACULTY POSITIONS (2022/06/30 11:59PM) [Apply](#)

American Physical Society, Division of Particles and Fields

1. [GIRA] GIRA Graduate Student Research Award 2022 (2022/05/15 11:59PM) [Apply](#)



APCTP, Junior Research Group

1. [POSTDOC1] Postdoctoral position in High Energy Theory (filled, deadline 2022/03/25 11:59PM)

APCTP, Non-equilibrium many-body physics group

1. [POSTDOC] Postdoctoral Position in Theoretical Condensed Matter Physics (2022/05/15 11:59PM) [Apply](#)



Useful Web sites for job offers

<https://www.nature.com/naturecareers/jobs/science-jobs>

<https://jobs.newscientist.com/en-gb/jobs/postdoc-jobs/?Keywords=#browsing>

<https://fr.indeed.com/Emplois-Post-Doctoral-Position-France>

<http://www.postdoc.com/>

How to find funding for your own project ?

How to find funding for your own project ?

<https://academicpositions.fr/career-advice/major-postdoc-fellowships>

Useful Web sites for funding possibilities

- Human Frontier Science Program

<http://www.hfsp.org/funding/postdoctoral-fellowships>

- Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellowships

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/actions/postdoctoral-fellowships>

-Germany: German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and Humboldt Foundation

<https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/phd-studies-and-research/research-in-germany/postdocs/>

<https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/apply/sponsorship-programmes/humboldt-research-fellowship>

- Switzerland: Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships

<https://www.sbf.admin.ch/sbf/en/home/education/scholarships-and-grants/swiss-government-excellence-scholarships.html#1582163571>

- The Netherlands: Veni programme

<https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/nwo-talent-programme-veni-enw-2021>

- Japan: Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

<http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/postdoctoral.html>

- Brazil: The São Paulo Research Foundation

<https://fapesp.br/en/postdoc>

- United-States: Fulbright Scholar Program and US Department of Energy

<http://www.cies.org/programs-visiting-non-us-scholars>

<http://www.anl.gov/postdocs/postdoctoral-programs>

- Canada: Banting and Killam fellowships

<https://banting.fellowships-bourses.gc.ca/en/home-accueil.html>

<https://www.dal.ca/faculty/gradstudies/programs/postdoctoral-fellows/postdoctoral-fellowships/killam-pdfs.html>

<https://www.postdocs.ubc.ca/award/killam-postdoctoral-research-fellowship>

Private enterprises that fund postdocs:

- Novo Nordisk

<https://www.rdm.ox.ac.uk/work-with-us/novo-nordisk-oxford-fellowships>

<https://www.novonordisk.com/careers/early-career-programmes/fellowships-scholarships/novo-nordisk-fellowships.html>

- Carlsberg

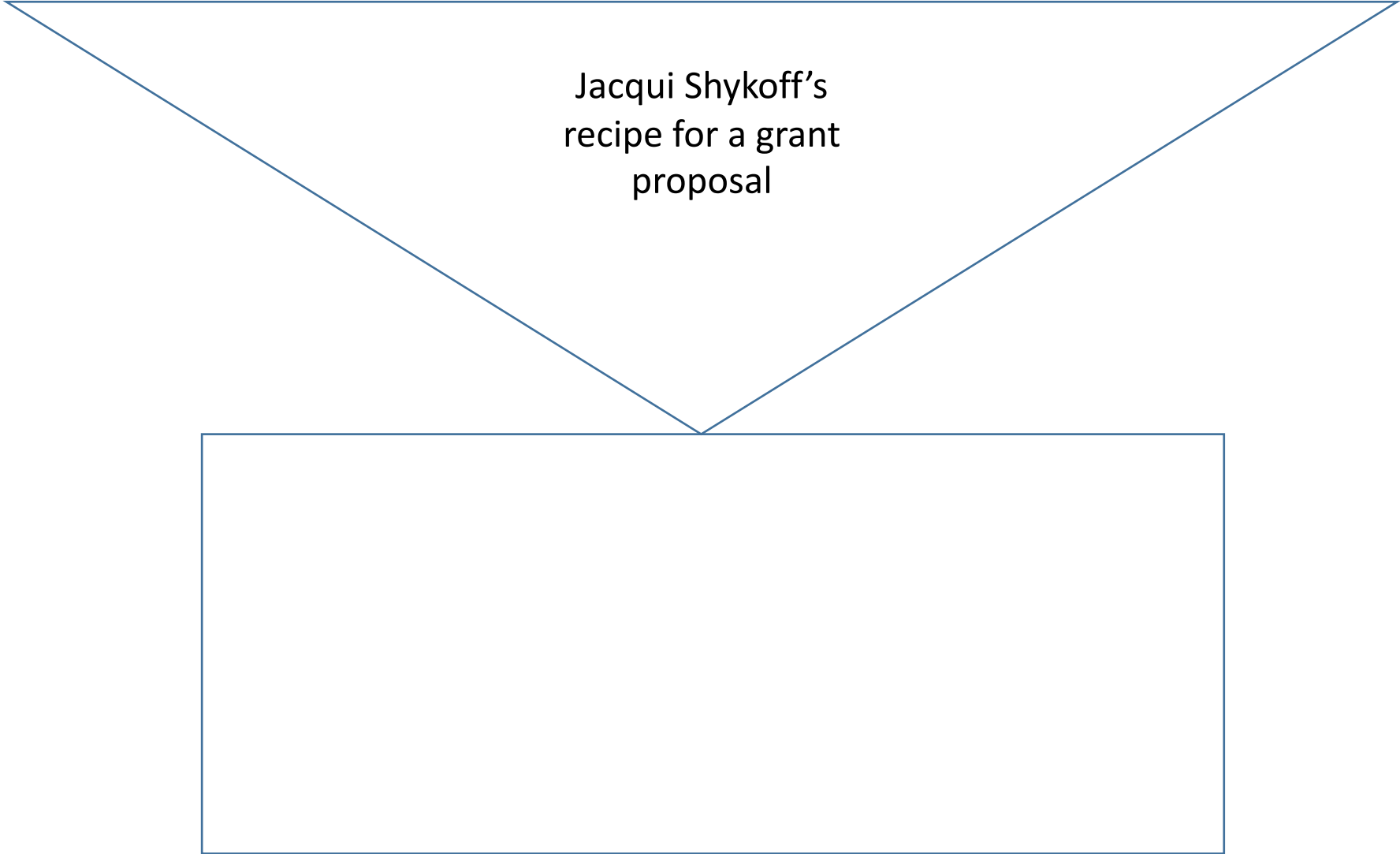
<https://www.carlsbergfondet.dk/en/Forskningsaktiviteter/Research-Projects/Postdoctoral-Fellowships>

- Islamic Development Bank

<https://www.isdb.org/scholarships/phd-and-post-doctoral-research-programme>

IT IS NOT TOO EARLY TO START THINKING
ABOUT YOUR POST DOC PROJECT !

NOR IS IT TOO LATE ...

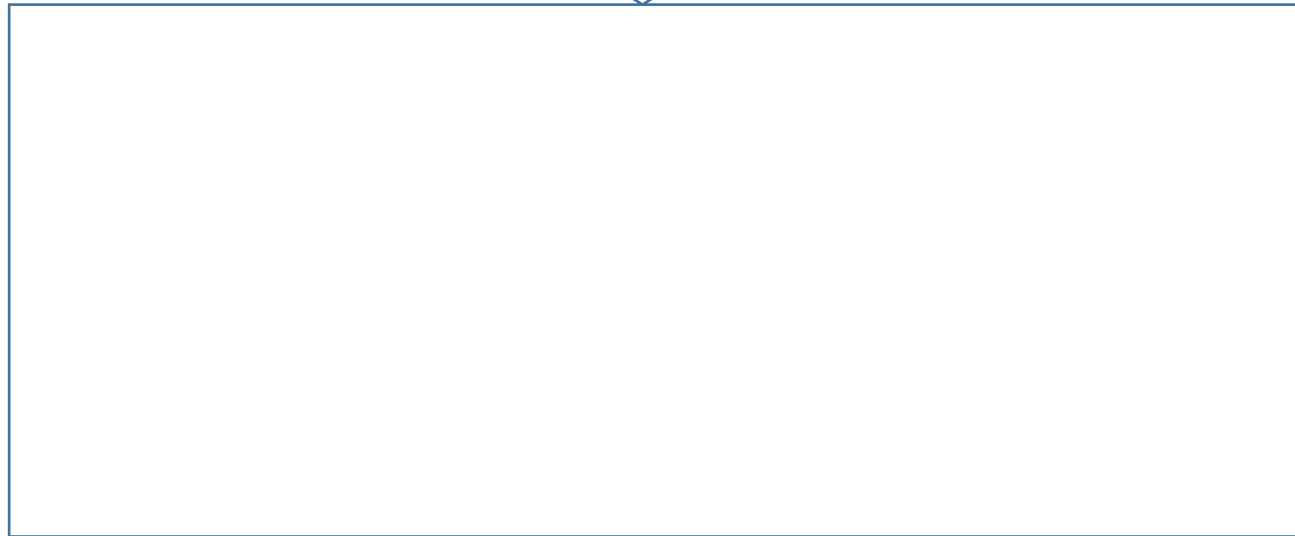


Jacqui Shykoff's
recipe for a grant
proposal

THE BIG QUESTION : THE GENERAL CONTEXT

STATE OF THE ART/WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW/A THOROUGH LITERATURE REVIEW

THE OPEN QUESTIONS, KNOWLEDGE GAP, OR WHAT WE WANT/NEED TO KNOW



THE BIG QUESTION : THE GENERAL CONTEXT

STATE OF THE ART/WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW/A THOROUGH LITERATURE REVIEW

THE OPEN QUESTIONS, KNOWLEDGE GAP, OR WHAT WE WANT/NEED TO KNOW

WHY WE CAN AND NEED TO DO THIS NOW: TIMELINESS

Technological breakthroughs, theoretical breakthroughs ...

Stress that you are asking IMPORTANT QUESTIONS that can/need to be answered NOW.)

THE BIG QUESTION : THE GENERAL CONTEXT

STATE OF THE ART/WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW/A THOROUGH LITERATURE REVIEW

THE OPEN QUESTIONS, KNOWLEDGE GAP, OR WHAT WE WANT/NEED TO KNOW

WHY WE CAN AND NEED TO DO THIS NOW: TIMELINESS

Different kinds of “timely” questions:

Old, long-standing questions that we did not have the tools to answer before

New questions that we only see now because of recent discoveries or events

Old, long-standing questions that we did not have the tools to answer before

New questions that we only see now because of recent discoveries or events

Old, long-standing questions that we did not have the tools to answer before

New questions that we only see now because of recent discoveries or events

- Can herd immunity arise from natural infection in a disease with the characteristics of Covid-19?
- What is “privacy” in a connected society and how can we protect it?
- Can we make chemical batteries that charge faster? How?
- How can we trap more carbon than we release into the atmosphere?
- Gene editing techniques accelerate our ability to determine gene function.
- We could not make RNA-Vaccines before Kariko and Weissman solved how to get foreign mRNA into cells

THE BIG QUESTION : THE GENERAL CONTEXT

STATE OF THE ART OR WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW – A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

THE OPEN QUESTIONS OR WHAT WE WANT/NEED TO KNOW

WHY WE CAN AND NEED TO FIND THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS NOW

(stress the “TIMELINESS” of the project – why it can or should be done NOW. This includes technological breakthroughs that allow the work to be done, theoretical breakthroughs ... Stress that you are asking IMPORTANT QUESTIONS that can/need to be answered NOW.)

METHODS : WHAT YOU PLAN TO DO

SAMPLING DESIGN

EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

STATISTICAL METHODS

PREDICTIONS

WHAT THIS NEW KNOWLEDGE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO ADVANCING YOUR AREA OF RESEARCH

THE BIG QUESTION : THE GENERAL CONTEXT

STATE OF THE ART OR WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW – A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

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METHODS : WHAT YOU PLAN TO DO

SAMPLING DESIGN

EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

STATISTICAL METHODS

PREDICTIONS

RISK ANALYSIS AND HOW YOU WILL DEAL WITH PROBLEMS

BACKUP PLAN (this increases your credibility)

WHAT THIS NEW KNOWLEDGE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO ADVANCING YOUR AREA OF RESEARCH

THE BIG QUESTION : THE GENERAL CONTEXT

Writing research proposals is one of the most creative activities researchers perform.

STATE OF THE ART OR WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW – A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Writing research proposals allows you to think about the most important open questions in your field and how to answer them.

THE OPEN QUESTIONS OR WHAT WE WANT/NEED TO KNOW

Good research proposals might be funded ! But you can also submit research plans that you intend to carry out for peer review and publication as pre-registrations.

(stress the “TIMELINESS” of the project – why it can or should be done NOW. This includes technological breakthroughs that allow the work to be done, theoretical breakthroughs ... Stress that

you are asking IMPORTANT QUESTIONS that can/need to be answered NOW.)

Please look at this publication on “preregistrations” and predictions versus “post-dictions”: <https://www.pnas.org/content/115/11/2600>

METHODS: WHAT YOU WANT TO DO

SAMPLING DESIGN

EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

More and more journals in more and more fields publish “pre-registrations”.

PREDICTIONS

RISK ANALYSIS AND HOW YOU WILL DEAL WITH PROBLEMS

BACKUP PLAN (this increases your credibility)

WHAT THIS NEW KNOWLEDGE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO ADVANCING YOUR AREA OF RESEARCH

THE BIG QUESTION : THE GENERAL CONTEXT

STATE OF THE ART OR WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW – A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

THE OPEN QUESTIONS OR WHAT WE WANT/NEED TO KNOW

WHY WE CAN AND NEED TO FIND ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS NOW
(stress the "TIMELINESS" of the work to be done, theoretical breakthroughs ... Stress that you are asking for QUESTIONS that can/need to be answered NOW.)

TRAINING YOU WILL RECEIVE AND NEW SKILLS YOU WILL ACQUIRE
(this is required for Marie Skłodowska Curie Post-docs)

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND TEACHING

MENTORING, SUPERVISION

METHODS : WHAT YOU PLAN TO DO

SAMPLING DESIGN

EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

STATISTICAL METHODS

PREDICTIONS

RISK ANALYSIS AND HOW YOU WILL DEAL WITH PROBLEMS

BACKUP PLAN (this increases your credibility)

DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHAT THIS NEW KNOWLEDGE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO ADVANCING YOUR AREA OF RESEARCH

DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN AND FAIR DATA

- Data should/must be Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable
- This is a leading principle of Open Scholarship that should contribute to the more efficient creation and advancement of knowledge
- Most granting agencies REQUIRE a DMP that outlines how data will be handled both during a research project and after the project is completed to ensure that the data are **FAIR**.

Follow-up reading

About “preregistrations” and predictions versus “post-dictions”:

<https://www.pnas.org/content/115/11/2600>

About research assessment:

<https://sfdora.org>

and some very very useful wisdom from a recent PhD student that you should read NOW! This will change your life!

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-07332-x?utm_source=briefing-dy&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=briefing&utm_content=20181107

And a link to a research integrity MOOC that is MUCH better and more useful than the research ethics course that the university offers. This one is actually useful. You might need to make an account for yourselves at FUN (France Université Numérique) but this is really worth doing. There are lots of interesting courses... This course will be available from now until the end of August 2022. You can follow it on your own schedule.

<https://www.fun-mooc.fr/en/courses/research-integrity-scientific-professions/>