

From: Denis Valle
Subject: PhD and Postdoctoral opportunities in Bayesian models applied to ecology at the Univ. of Florida

PhD and Postdoctoral opportunities in Bayesian statistics at the Univ. of Florida

Dr. Denis Valle, Assistant Professor in the School of Forest Resources and Conservation at the University of Florida (UF), is now accepting applications for a PhD Graduate Research Assistantship and a Postdoctoral position. Research in my group focuses on tackling important problems in environmental sciences and public health by creating and using innovative Bayesian statistical models. Additional information on my research can be found [here](#).

The position will focus on the development and application of novel multivariate Bayesian methods to understand how anthropogenic drivers alter biodiversity patterns. This NSF funded project builds on our earlier work (Valle et al., 2014. Decomposing biodiversity data using the Latent Dirichlet Allocation model, a probabilistic multivariate statistical method. Ecology Letters) and offers a unique opportunity to work with a highly interdisciplinary team that includes a Community Ecologist, applied Bayesian Statistician, Computational Phylogeneticist, and Computer Scientist.

The position will be located at the UF campus in Gainesville, FL. Duties include writing and presenting result of research in scientific conferences, searching and applying for additional sources of funding, and assisting other students within the team on statistical analyses, among others.

We expect applicants to be highly motivated, independent, enthusiastic, proficient in computer programming (e.g., R, MatLab, C++) and able to successfully communicate research results (i.e., through publications and oral presentations).

Requirements for prospective postdocs:

- Strong background on environmental sciences with experience programming customized Bayesian models; or
- strong background in statistics with interest on environmental science.

Requirements for prospective PhD students:

- background on environmental sciences with experience in (or desire to learn) advanced statistical Bayesian models; or
- background in statistics with experience in (or desire to learn) environmental sciences;
- GRE minimum scores of 153 Verbal; 155 Quantitative; Analytical/writing 4 (500/700 old scoring scale)
- MS degree with GPA exceeding 3.5
- The candidate must meet the formal admission requirements for the University of Florida and the School of Forest Resources and Conservation.
(<http://sfrc.ufl.edu/academics/how-to-apply/>)

If interested, please email the items listed below to drvalle@ufl.edu:

- One page cover letter with a brief review of your research experience, interests and goals, and how they align with those from my lab
- CV with contact information
- Contact information for three academic references

- (only for prospective students) GRE scores
- (only for prospective students) Transcripts (unofficial) from all previous colleges and universities

Start Date: August (2017)

The application deadline is Jan. 15th, 2016

The University of Florida is an equal employment and affirmative action employer and a provider of ADA services. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, ethnicity, color, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or identity, national origin, disability status or protected veteran status.