

PhD student

For Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO-WOTRO) funded project: “*New Middle Class Formation and Trickle Down Effects of Offshore Service Sector Development in Mumbai and Manila*”.

Start date: 1 March, 2011 (to be discussed with candidate)

Project:

Background

This PhD project is part of a larger 5-year Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) funded research project in which researchers from University of Amsterdam, Mumbai University and University of the Philippines collaborate to understand the local outcomes of contemporary globalisation by means of the international expansion of offshore service delivery. Three PhD-students and one Post-doc researcher will investigate the patterns of expansion of the offshore service sector in Mumbai and Manila, place these patterns in historical comparative perspective, investigate the segmented opportunity structure for upward labour mobility of workers, and examine its wider societal impact (for different segments in the urban labour market). The researchers collaborate in both cities with a variety of non-academic partners (business representatives, government, labour organisations) with which yearly stakeholder meetings are held in order to provide input to policy agendas in both cities.

Key Themes and Foci

Within the framework of the overall research project, this PhD-project will concentrate on with two societal impacts of offshore service sector development: (1) the contribution of the development to the formation of an urban middle class in the cities concerned, and (2) the trickle down or spillover effects into other parts of the urban economy. Offshore service sector development is often associated with rising incomes, changing consumption patterns and new lifestyles. The differentiation of the sector between lower and higher value added activities raises the question whether, and to what extent, the expansion of the service-sector strengthens the formation of a new urban middle class and what will be its role in giving direction to societal change. To understand its role as driver of economic development this project identifies whether the offshore service-sector creates spill-over job and livelihood opportunities to other segments of the urban labour force such as low-wage providers of personal or professional support services. The project also investigates how localised these impacts are and thus maps the geographical distribution of the expenditures of workers in the urban/regional economies of Mumbai and Manila.

Output

A dissertation (with the publication of several articles in high reputation/impact scholarly journals, either sole-authored or with the promoter and co-supervisors).

Profile candidate

The PhD student will elaborate the theoretical and practical design of the project, carry out empirical fieldwork in Mumbai and Manila, analyse data and publish papers in international scholarly journals; together, this will provide the basis for a PhD thesis, which is to be completed within four years. The PhD student will follow courses (partly at the University of Amsterdam) and participate in seminars and conferences (and be involved in organising them).

Requirements

- A master's degree in any Social Science
- Experience with empirical research on topics such as globalisation, new international division of labour, middle class formation
- Experience with mixed-methods research, for example in the Master's thesis
- The ability and interest to operate in an international interdisciplinary research team
- Excellent organisational skills
- Proven academic writing skills
- Wish to pursue an academic career

Further information

For further inquiries please contact Dr. Niels Beerepoot (University of Amsterdam)
email: n.p.c.beerepoot@uva.nl .

For information on the WOTRO-Integrated Programme project:
<http://home.staff.uva.nl/n.p.c.beerepoot/page3.html>

Application

Candidates who are interested in applying for this position are requested to send a motivation letter, CV and a short sample of academic writing (e.g. journal article, chapter of MA thesis, essay) before **##date##** to: uvamu.phdapplication@gmail.com (addressed to Prof. Dr. Neeraj Hatekar and Dr. Niels Beerepoot).

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a short writing assignment on the subject. On the basis of this assignment, a selective number of candidates will be invited for an interview.