Project Title
Exploring the Design Space for Enhancing Complementary Feeding Practices in Peru

Project Highlights:
1. Understanding infant and young child feeding practices in relation to family dynamics, motivations, socio-cultural contexts, and health policies and provision. Identifying how these factors influence the diet and nutrition of infants and young children in Peru

2. Examining the suitability of existing theoretical frameworks and guidelines for designing socio-technical health interventions for the Peruvian context

3. Co-designing and evaluating socio-technical prototypes with women, family members, community childcare staff and healthcare professionals by exploring the use of creative methods and scenarios as well as the potential role of interactive technologies in enhancing current food intakes, nutritional status and health outcomes of infants and young children in Peru

Project Overview
Maternal and neonatal health is one of the biggest public health concerns around the world. The prevalence of chronic malnutrition (stunting and micronutrient deficiencies) and the increase of overweight and obesity represent a double burden of malnutrition that in particular impacts children and women in low and low-to-middle income countries. Although Peru has achieved significant reductions in undernutrition, particularly stunting, there is a high prevalence of iron deficiency anaemia, affecting around 25% of Peruvian infants/young children. With the increasing prevalence of overweight and obesity, the population faces a nutritional double burden. There is limited research on the socio-cultural factors and feeding practices (e.g., early energy intake, types of food and dietary behaviours) that influence obesity and overweight in infants and young children.

This PhD studentship aims to design and create innovative approaches, strategies and interventions (technological-based or not) that can support and help enhance complementary feeding practices in infants and children in Peru. The project will involve observational and/or user studies (e.g., interviews and focus groups) as well as community engagement through different co-design methods and workshops to design and implement socio-technical prototypes that can address the identified needs in relation to complementary feeding practices in Peru.

The PhD studentship is based at the Department of Informatics, University of Leicester starting 23rd September 2019. The PhD student will carry out an independent research project aligned with a 3-year UK Medical Research Council-funded project on Strategies to Improve Infant and Young Child Feeding in Peru. The PhD student will collaborate closely with a multidisciplinary group of researchers from the School of Sport, Exercise & Health Sciences at Loughborough University, the Interaction Design and Evaluation of Socio-technical Systems (IDEAS) Group at the University of Leicester, and IRD in France as well as with researchers from Peru including the Nutrition Research Institute, the National University of San Marcos and the National University Hermilio Valdizan. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to data collection/analysis and design work in Peru. Moreover, it is planned to have an external supervisor (Dr. Emily Rousham) from the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences at Loughborough University.
Further Reading:


Critical Skills & Training Development:

* Experience planning, conducting and documenting field-based qualitative research studies.
* Experience unifying and analyzing multiple forms of data from diverse research activities.
* Experience planning and facilitating participatory design activities and synthesizing the insights through different visual forms e.g., storyboards, etc.
* Knowledge and experience in design and prototyping skills.
* Open to work with a multidisciplinary team of researchers.

Indicative Student Profile:

* Applicants should have a good Masters level degree in a relevant field (e.g., Computer Science, Human-Computer Interaction, Design, Media & Communication, Digital Humanities & Health Informatics) or a very good first degree (equivalent to a First Class or Upper Second Class Bachelor of Science Degree).
* Research interests in one or more of the following areas: digital health, computer-supported cooperative work, human-computer interaction, user experience design, science and technology studies.
* Prior experience with public health and/or healthcare settings is a ++
* Prior experience with mHealth, wearables, physical computing, and/or DoItYourself (DIY) for Health and Wellbeing initiatives is a ++
* Spanish language is also desirable but not mandatory.

**Funding Information and Contact**

Stipend and salary package worth £15,009 per annum, plus UK/EU fee waiver, for four years under the Graduate Teaching Assistant Scheme. Non-EU students can apply if they can fund the (substantial) difference between UK/EU fees and international fees from other sources.

A Graduate Teaching Assistant is expected to undertake teaching related duties within the Department of Informatics, not normally exceeding eight contact hours per week during term time, while conducting research. The position is available starting on 23rd September 2019.


Informal enquiries are welcome, please get in touch with Dr. Nervo Verdezoto - fervo.verdezoto@le.ac.uk

Further information on how to apply:
[https://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/informatics/news/vacancies/gtas-sep2019](https://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/informatics/news/vacancies/gtas-sep2019)