

One 4-year PhD studentships in the project “Mapping Mental Health Research against Needs”

A 4-year PhD studentship (2019-2023) is available within the project “Mapping Mental Health Research against Research” (*MapaMent*) conducted by [Ismael Ràfols](#) at [Ingenio](#) (CSIC, an institute of science policy studies) and [Paula Adam](#) at [AQuAS](#) (the public Catalan Agency for Health Quality and Assessment).

The PhD student will enrol in the programme [Information and Knowledge Society Doctoral Programme](#) of UOC (the Open University of Catalonia), where he will be co-supervised by [Marta Aymerich](#) (vice-rector for research and member of the [eHealth Centre](#)) and Ismael Ràfols (CSIC).

If interested, please contact i.rafols@ingenio.upv.es as soon as possible (preferably by October 22nd).

The project

MapaMent aims develop methods for priority setting in health research in the area of mental health. The goal is to build methodologies that inform resource allocation in health research on the basis of three sources of evidence:

- perceptions and values of stakeholders on health needs and research priorities,
- evidence of health needs obtained from new digital healthcare data,
- evidence of current research priorities obtained from publication and funding data.

This approach is a response to the perception that research is not sufficiently contributing to improving welfare. Mental health is an issue with a major social burden, in which there is an ongoing public and plural debate on preferred research trajectories.

To address the perceived misalignment between research and needs, we aim to develop a priority setting strategy that exploits newly available big data on healthcare and on scientific activities and that uses, in parallel, wider forms of expertise through public participation. Such approaches are in agreement with wider science policy initiatives in Europe on ‘Open Science’ and ‘Responsible Research and Innovation’ (RRI), as well as the ‘Evaluation System for Research in Health’ of Catalonia (SARIS). The comprehensive methodology will be built combining techniques from participatory research from science and technology studies, health needs and cost estimates from health economics, and on science mapping techniques from big data analysis.

The project is unique in bringing together highly transdisciplinary expertise from a science policy institute, Ingenio (CSIC-UPV), and a health policy agency (AQuAS) that are among the leading centres in the study and application of research impact assessment. It will build on ongoing collaborations with European centres on innovation policy, namely [CWTS](#) (University of Leiden) and [SPRU](#) (University of Sussex).

Possible PhD topics:

Depending on the profile, interests and creative ideas of candidates, the PhD research can be focused to different degree on participatory or qualitative approaches to capture stakeholders perceptions, or on data analysis building on access to AQuAS healthcare data ([PADRIS](#)) and scientometrics. In any case, we expect the student to engage with policy-driven questions, and to combine disparate research methods in addressing them (see e.g. [Wallace and Rafols, Research Policy 2018](#)).

Benefits

- A 4 year full-time contract contract with associated benefits (social security, etc.), employed by Ingenio (CSIC) (20,453 euro per year before taxes).
- Tuition fee at the UOC (Open University of Catalonia)
- Additional research and training related costs will be covered (for example, conferences, workshops, fieldwork, equipment)

Requirements:

- Applicants should have a good Masters degree. Open to any type of previous degree – including natural, social sciences and humanities.
- Fluency in oral and written English.
- Interested for mixed quantitative and qualitative methods. If you are strong on some, you should have motivation to learn others.
- Fluency in oral and written Catalan and Spanish may be relevant assets to interact with stakeholders and conduct case studies, depending on focus of project.

Relevant skills (not all required):

- Qualitative research methods in science and technology studies such as participatory research and Interviews
- Data collection, processing and analytical skills in public health, science policy or STS
 - Database management
 - Experience with programming languages such as SQL, Python or R
 - Network analysis and visualisation tools

Timelines

- It is expected to start between January and September 2019

Application notes:

- Formal requirements for acceptance are available at [UOC webpage](#).
- We welcome applications from suitably qualified people, regardless of ethnicity, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, and working patterns.
- Please contact i.rafols@ingenio.upv.es for inquiries.

Addition information of organisations involved

[Ingenio](#) is a centre affiliated to the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) and to the Polytechnic University of Valencia (UPV). *Ingenio* has a focus on implementation and evaluation of science and innovation policies, economics of technical change, and technology transfer –with some concentration on biomedical research. *Ingenio* is an active member of the leading European network of research institute in the field of science and innovation policy and management ([Eu-SPRI](#)), which supports PhD circulation across centres.

[AQuAS](#) is the Catalan Agency for Health Quality and Assessment, which carries out data assessment and analysis so as to generate relevant information for decision-making processes. AQuAS is committed to promoting health and to enhancing the sustainability of the Catalan health system. Paula Adam leads the policy unit (ISOR) that assesses the broader societal impacts of research. AQuAS is one of the founding organisations of the [International School of Research Impact Assessment](#) (ISRIA).

The [Open University of Catalonia \(UOC\)](#) is one of the world-pioneers in online teaching. The [eHealth Center](#) is a transdisciplinary academic centre that generates and transfers knowledge on digital health. It works on high social impact projects, to develop, implement and evaluate models that help empower citizens and professionals. It performs this task through the use of information and communication necessary to address the health and quality of life challenges that will emerge in coming decades.