

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship at Eurac Research Call 2026

List of topics and research fields

Researchers willing to submit a proposal for the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship with Eurac Research are welcome to propose their own project idea. Some of our institutes/centers and researchers willing to serve as supervisors have, however, also indicated topics and research fields that they are particularly interested in working with. If wishing to work on one of these topics/research fields, we ask to indicate the corresponding topic number in the expression of interest.¹

Topic 1	
Name of the supervisor	Martin Lang
Institute	Institute for Biomedicine
Research field	Biomedical Sciences
Brief description	Parkinson's Disease (PD) is a rapidly increasing neurodegenerative disorder. Our research investigates how mitochondrial and lysosomal dysfunction, together with disruptions in lipid homeostasis, contribute to PD, and examines the MiT transcription factor family (MITF, TFEB, TFE3) as central regulators of autophagy for disease prevention and therapy. Using advanced imaging on the Opera Phenix platform and state-of-the-art cellular models, including iPSC-derived neurons and organoids, the project explores mechanisms that enhance the MiT pathway, promote degradation of toxic aggregates, and modulate lipid biosynthesis. This project integrates high-throughput small-molecule and CRISPR screens to identify, prioritize, and preclinically validate candidate MiT activators with therapeutic potential for improving PD related cellular phenotypes.

¹ More information under <https://www.eurac.edu/en/research-support/marie-sklodowska-curie-week>

Topic 2	
Name of the supervisor	Cristian Pattaro
Institute	Institute for Biomedicine
Research field	Biostatistics / Genetic Epidemiology / Statistical Genetics / Bioinformatics
Brief description	Interest lies in statistical and computational methods to identify molecular determinants of complex traits. Methodological problems of interest arise from, but are not limited to, the areas of: measurement error models; GWAS; meta-analyses; whole-genome and whole-exome sequencing studies; multiomics data integration; modelling of non-conventional phenotypes, including censored and mixture traits; causal inference leveraging genetic data. The main applications concern kidney function, cardiovascular health, and the immunology.

Topic 3	
Name of the supervisor	Fabiola Del Greco M.
Institute	Institute for Biomedicine
Research field	Biostatistics/Epidemiology/Computational statistics
Brief description	Improving public health is the ultimate goal of biomedical research. Causal inference - how specific biomarkers, treatments, and other exposures could affect disease outcomes - dominates the great majority of clinical and public health research investigations, for its key role in the making decisions process. Non-randomised observational data from the Cooperative Health Research in South Tyrol (CHRIS) study, along with its wealth of phenotypic, molecular (e.g. metabolomics, proteomics), and genetic data (e.g. genotypes, whole-exome sequencing), represents an unique resource for investigating causalities. It offers the potential to tackle the most recent challenges of making causal inferences in healthcare applications, such as processing high-dimensional and complex structured data, by incorporating more advanced analytical methods like machine learning.

Topic 4	Roberto Melotti
Name of the supervisor	Institute for Biomedicine
Institute	Clinical & Genetic Epidemiology, Statistical learning
Research field	The Cooperative Health Research in South Tyrol (CHRIS) cohort study maintains a wealth of health data from a large rural community for scientific research. Phenome, genome and -omics data comprise more than 13K adult participants at baseline and 4K currently available at 8+ years ongoing follow-up. Within CHRIS, my topics of

	interest are to explore and test hypotheses on the functional relationship between instrumental assessments (e.g. tremor, olfaction, pain) and self-reported health (e.g. mental health, movement disorders, cognition, sleep, pain, neurodegeneration), with a stance on health inequalities, study representativeness and clinical validity. The scope is to identify latent signatures, deep phenotypes and early biomarkers, which may include genetic susceptibility, to predict or causally relate these topics, through statistical learning applications (e.g. AI/Machine learning, Structural Equation Modelling, functional data analysis).
Brief description	

Topic 5	
Name of the supervisor	Aivars Glaznieks
Institute	Institute for Applied Linguistics
Research field	Learner Corpus Research, Corpus Linguistics, Linguistics of German, German as First and Second Language
Brief description	My research interests lie in the investigation of non-standard varieties of German. In particular, I am focusing on learner varieties as well as on digital everyday language used in computer-mediated communication (CMC), e.g. on sociolinguistic aspects of the use of registers in CMC. Currently, I am working on the description of written German dialect varieties in CMC. I have also worked on the creation of several learner corpora in recent years, such as LEONIDE, Kolipsi and KoKo, and combine writing research and corpus linguistics in my research activities.

Topic 6	
Name of the supervisor	Andrea Carlà
Institute	Institute for Minority Rights
Research field	Political science, IR
Brief description	The research topic lies at the intersection of ethnic politics, minority rights and security studies. Minority issues have long been interlinked with security considerations. A proper understanding of this link is required in order to govern increasingly diverse societies. In this light, it is necessary to analyse processes of securitization of (e.g. national/ethnic/religious) minorities (e.g. why, how, when, they occur and so on) and how to counter such type of processes (through e.g. desecuritization, emancipation, resilience ...). Alternatively, scholars should examine various other ways security concerns intersect with minority issues and the fostering of integrated societies, including in regard to the governance of cultural heritage in minority contexts.

Topic 7	
Name of the supervisor	Federica Cittadino
Institute	Institute for Comparative Federalism
Research field	Environmental Law and Governance
Brief description	My research field includes anything focusing on e.g. environmental law in multilevel systems, biodiversity law, climate change law, climate litigation, environmental justice, environmental participation, the relationship between environmental law and human rights, the role of non-state actors in environmental governance, cross-border management of environmental problems, relationship between environmental regimes and potential conflicts, implementation of EU environmental law.

Topic 8	
Names of the supervisors	Alice Valdesalici
Institute	Institute for Comparative Federalism
Research field	Law
Brief description	Our research focuses on the allocation of powers and responsibilities among and within the different levels of government of federal systems, also including intergovernmental relations, within and beyond formal institutions. Different policy areas are explored from ‘a governance perspective’. Fiscal federalism and environmental issues such as dealing with climate change and other challenges are the major areas of investigation, but migrant integration, language policies, digitalization, education, and healthcare are also areas of expertise. These are addressed from a comparative perspective including federal systems around the globe through an extended understanding of federalism as including the level above the State, i.e., international and supranational organizations (in particular the EU and cross-border cooperation), and the level below, i.e., local government.

Topic 9	
Name of the supervisor	Francisco Javier Romero Caro
Institute	Institute for Comparative Federalism
Research field	Law and political science
Brief description	In the ever-evolving landscape of multilevel governance , federalism and autonomy remain central to political debates. A key challenge is balancing self-rule with national unity—an equilibrium increasingly tested by secessionist movements, as seen in Catalonia, Scotland, and Quebec. These cases raise pressing questions about

	how to reconcile regional aspirations with state integrity while maintaining democratic stability. At the same time, democratic institutions face mounting pressures from a broader global trend: the growing appeal of autocratic governance. Even in established democracies like the United States, Hungary, and India, autocratic approaches are gaining traction. What drives this shift? Why do political actors and segments of society embrace centralized, illiberal models? Examining the resilience of institutions—particularly judicial independence at federal and state levels—offers critical insights. By examining how institutional strength—or vulnerability—shapes the broader democratic framework, this research can contribute to understanding the mechanisms that enable or counteract democratic backsliding.
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Topic 10	
Names of the supervisors	Giacomo Orsini
Institute	Center for Migration and Societal Change
Research field	Sociology, Political Science, Anthropology
Brief description	My research field focuses on the everyday lived experiences of migration and border regimes, and how they serve to (re)produce ex-/in-clusion in societies. Informed by post and de-colonial perspectives, I conducted extensive (field) research on multiple locations Europe's external border and externalized migration regimes (e.g.; Lampedusa, Melilla, Morocco, Libya), in India, and within the EU in Belgium, Spain, Italy and Greece. Working with very diverse groups (e.g., migrants, fishermen, policymakers, minors, social workers, activists, etc.) I explored and wrote extensively on securitization and everyday bordering; institutional racism, structural and gender-based violence; psychosocial wellbeing and trauma; coloniality and governmentality. Have experience working transdisciplinary and mainly with qualitative methods (but have significant experience with mixed methods as well)

Topic 11	
Names of the supervisors	Elisabeth Alber, Chiara Salati, Martina Trettel
Institute	Institute for Comparative Federalism
Research field	Law, political science, socio-legal studies
Brief description	We welcome project proposals focusing on three (interlinked) issues. First, the theory and practice of democratic and institutional innovations , including studies on specific policy fields or collaborative and commons governance at various levels of government. Second, the theory and practice of comparative autonomies studies, participatory Constitution-making and

	deliberative constitutionalism, including the question whether federalism can act as a source of constitutional resilience against democratic backsliding and authoritarianism in established multilevel systems, conflict-affected areas, or in post-conflict reconstruction. Third, the theory and practice of border studies and cross-border participatory governance, including the role of public administrations in collaborative (transfrontier) governance within the EU, in relation to EU's neighbourhood, and beyond.
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