DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP

3-year grant on “Globalization and nutrition transitions in emerging countries”

Main supervisors: Fabrice Etilé & Anne-Célia Disdier

Framework and research questions

Over the last decades, significant progresses have been made in integrating emerging countries into the world economy. Market globalization has had important effects on the variety, price, availability, and quality of food supply and demand in these countries. This project aims at investigating for emerging countries the link between openness to foreign food products through international trade and foreign direct investments on the one side, and the food and nutrition transitions of the demand observed on the other side. The main objective of the thesis will be to provide a better understanding of the way globalization shapes food systems and therefore food habits and population health, and to derive policy recommendations on the integration of nutritional objectives in the making of trade policies. Three related research questions are:

- What are the channels through which globalization affects diets and health in emerging countries, and what is their relative importance? How do non-food-related determinants (urbanization, increasing sedentary lifestyle, changes in women fertility and labour market participation) interact with food-related factors?

- Do food-related determinants of diet and health (food price, food availability, increasing differentiation in quality, supermarkets etc.) have a differentiated impact on undernourishment on the one side, and over-nourishment on the other side?

- How do food innovations diffuse to final consumers? Through the emergence of new food products, alteration of traditional food products and/or changes in food preferences? What is the role of multinational firms and FDI in these processes?

The PhD student will learn to publish in refereed journals of the highest level in general, and in the fields of international economics, health economics and agricultural economics in particular. She/he will also learn to deal with large scale datasets and perform high-quality empirical analyses using the most recent advances in econometrics.

Application

We expect knowledge in microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics at an advanced master’s level. Therefore, the standard entry requirement is a completed master’s degree in economics. Candidates should be highly motivated to conduct independent research. Candidates with Master’s qualifications should have achieved a distinction or, where this has yet to have been achieved, be able to provide evidence of high performance that will lead to a distinction.

No restrictions on nationality. Fluency in the French language is not required for admission.
How to apply

There is not a specific scholarship application form. You should submit your application by email to F. Etilé (fabrice.etile@psemail.eu) & A-C. Disdier (anne-celia.disdier@ens.fr)

Applicants need the following documents for their application: CV, Letter of Motivation, Bachelor’s Diploma, Master’s Diploma (or preliminary Transcript of Records), Proof of English-skills, and two references. All documents must either be in English or French.

Deadline for application: June 15, 2015.

Funding

Successful candidate will receive the following financial support for up to 3 years: 1,757 Euros per month (gross salary).

Start of the grant: September/October 2015

Find out more

If you have any questions, please contact F. Etilé and/or A-C. Disdier