Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Human Cooperative Behavior

The Human Cooperation Laboratory at Yale University seeks a Postdoctoral Fellow to begin fall 2013, for two or more years. The fellow will design and run research studies, analyze data, prepare publications, and be a core member of the lab’s intellectual community.

Our lab explores why people are willing to pay costs to benefit the greater good, and what can we do to promote this kind of cooperative behavior in the world around us. We ask (i) what prosocial and antisocial decisions will people make in particular situations and social environments?; (ii) what are the cognitive mechanisms that determine how these decisions are actually made (with a particular emphasis on dual process models of cognition)?; and (iii) why have our decision-making processes come to function as they do (considering both genetic and cultural evolution/learning)?

To answer these questions, we combine behavioral experiments with formal models (mostly using evolutionary game theory and behavioral game theory). The lab draws on approaches from psychology, economics, evolutionary biology, sociology, anthropology and computer science, and is interested in applications including law, management and public policy. Our lab culture aims to advance our understanding of cooperation by fostering open discussion and debate, and rewarding originality and vision.

Ideal candidates would be creative, independent, articulate and deeply engaged in questions related to cooperation (or associated topics such as moral judgment, religion, fairness, etc). The Postdoctoral Fellow will not be tied to a specific grant, and thus will have substantial freedom to develop and lead research projects based on her/his own ideas related to these questions. Funds for conducting experiments will be available to the fellow, as well as the many opportunities for collaboration afforded by the Yale community.

Individuals with a Ph.D., or those expecting to complete their Ph.D. in Spring 2013, are encouraged to apply. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Please send CV, statement of interest (two pages max), 2 reprints/preprints, and at least 3 references to: Gordon Kraft-Todd, gordonkrafttodd@fas.harvard.edu. Please also indicate any expertise related to computer simulation, web programming, game theory, statistical analysis or other quantitative approaches (or level of interest in learning these skills). Women, LGBTQ and under-represented minority applicants are encouraged. Yale University is An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.