A 3-year postdoctoral position in theoretical evolutionary biology is available at the Department of Zoology, University of Oxford.

The position is part of a FP7-funded Large Scale Collaborative Project on developmental plasticity and ageing, with a particular focus on the role of epigenetic mechanisms. The researcher will develop new theory targeting the relationships between developmental plasticity and evolution.

Three areas are of particular interest: (i) the evolution of 'developmental switches' and its implications for early environmental effects on long-term performance, including ageing; (ii) evolutionary ecology of trans-generational plasticity (maternal effects); and (iii) the role of epigenetic mechanisms in mediating within-and trans-generational plasticity.

A PhD in evolutionary biology, ecology, or mathematical biology is required. Applicants should have a background in evolutionary theory and show strong mathematical and computing skills and an enthusiasm for basic research. Individuals with experience of research on life history theory, developmental/phenotypic plasticity or evolution of development are especially encouraged to apply.

The successful candidate will work independently and in collaboration with Dr Tobias Uller at the University of Oxford (http://www.zoo.ox.ac.uk/egi/people/faculty/tobias_uller.htm), and will be part of an inter-disciplinary consortium (Integrated Research on Developmental Determinants of Aging and Longevity) involving 16 leading research groups around Europe with expertise in a broad range of topics, including evolutionary, developmental and molecular biology, epigenetics, bioinformatics, and medicine.

The post is based in a dynamic and expanding research-active research environment. The Edward Grey Institute (EGI), of c. 50 people, is fully integrated within the Department of Zoology, University of Oxford. The EGI is world leading in the study of causes and consequences of phenotypic variation in natural populations, with many active ongoing research programs (further details at http://www.zoo.ox.ac.uk/egi/).

The application deadline is September 12. The anticipated start date is January 1 2012 or as soon as possible.

Applications should include CV, full list of publications, cover letter and email addresses of two referees. In the cover letter, applicants should describe their theoretical background and experience with mathematical modeling and evolutionary theory explicitly.

Further details on the terms and conditions and how to apply can be found here:
https://www.recruit.ox.ac.uk. Vacancy ID: 100769

Please contact Tobias Uller (tobias.uller@zoo.ox.ac.uk) for further information or informal discussions about the post.