

Position title: Postdoctoral researcher for a qualitative study on the role of culture in the experience of postnatal depression in the context of breastfeeding.

Location: Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Institution : Department of Psychiatry, Jewish General Hospital and McGill University

Status: Full-time

Publication date: April 2, 2024

Overview :

Dr. Danielle Groleau is seeking a highly motivated postdoctoral fellow to join a dynamic research project in social and transcultural psychiatry. This project aims to investigate the role of culture in the shaping and experience of maternal and paternal postnatal depression (PND) in the context of breastfeeding.

Study problem:

The postnatal period represents a challenge for many mothers, making them vulnerable to psychiatric disorders, particularly depressive episodes. Maternal PND can have adverse effects on both mother and infant, often leading to early weaning. Conversely, successful breastfeeding has been associated with an improvement in PND symptoms. Despite this, the underlying mechanisms of the relationship between PND and breastfeeding remain poorly understood. This study aims to fill this gap by focusing on cultural communities such as Orthodox and Hasidic Jewish as well as South Saharan African women, where breastfeeding despite DPN is much more prevalent.

Postdoctoral context:

As a postdoctoral fellow, you will play a key role in a larger research project exploring psychosocial and cultural factors influencing breastfeeding duration in mothers with PND. You will have the opportunity to develop your own project within this framework, focusing on understanding the meaning and experience of PND and breastfeeding in a sub-sample of affected mothers. In addition, you will be able to explore the perspectives of fathers (or the 2nd parent identifying as female or 2SLGBTQ+ if applicable) with PND symptoms.

Responsibilities:

- Conduct qualitative interviews with mothers (and fathers or second parent, if applicable) suffering from PND, focusing on their experiences of PND and breastfeeding.
- Analyze data to identify cultural and psychosocial factors influencing breastfeeding duration as well as maternal and paternal PND.
- Collaborate with the research team to contribute to ongoing discussions and publications in the field of social and transcultural psychiatry.

Qualifications:

- PhD in a relevant field (e.g. psychology, psychiatry, anthropology, public health).
- Experience and/or interest in qualitative methodologies.
- Experience and/or interest in perinatal mental health and cultural psychiatry.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.

Internship details:

- Duration: One year, renewable once.
- Stipend: \$55,000 annually, plus \$5,000 for expenses.

Note: This postdoctoral fellowship is conditional on obtaining a UTTING fellowship from the Department of Psychiatry at the Jewish General Hospital. The fellowship will be supervised by Dr. Danielle Groleau, full professor in the Division of Social and Transcultural Psychiatry at McGill University and senior researcher in the psychosocial axis of the Lady Davis Institute at the Jewish General Hospital.

Application mechanism:

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae (CV), a brief (1-page) statement of research interests and career goals, and contact information for five references. Please send your application to psychosocial.ccomtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca with the subject line "Application Postdoctoral Fellow - [Your Name]". Applications will be considered until the position is filled.