

1 research position (pre- or postdoc, 2 years, start September 1, 2016)

In the context of the Ayrton Senna Chair @ Ghent University, entitled: “Assessment and Development of Living and Employability Skills in Youth”, we are looking for an additional full-time researcher to assist with studies on the assessment and development of social-emotional skills in (Brazilian) youth. The chair is embedded in the Department of Developmental, Personality and Social Psychology of Ghent University, and currently employs one pre-doc collaborator. More info on the Chair and the Ayrton Senna Institute can be found below.

We have an additional job opening for 2 years, either for a pre-doc student (assumed to prepare a PhD) or a post-doctoral researcher.

We are looking for someone with strong data-analytic (structural analyses, IRT, multi-level) and academic-English writing skills (for the postdoc) or with a strong interest to develop such skills (pre-doc). Candidates preferably have a background in social sciences with an emphasis on psychological assessment, psychology and/or education.

The candidate will closely collaborate in an international team, with colleagues from Ghent University, the Ayrton Senna Institute (Sao Paulo), INSPER (Sao Paulo), the University of San Francisco (Campinas), the University of Sao Paulo and the University of California (Berkeley). The position provides an excellent opportunity to build a strong and successful international research and publication track.

Remuneration as a pre- (WP wetenschappelijk medewerker) or postdoc (WP postdoctoraal) according to the salary-levels of Ghent University. More info can be found at: <http://www.ugent.be/nl/vacatures/categorieen-salarisschalen/salarisschalen/wpwm.htm>

Candidates can send their motivation letter + detailed cv directly to Filip.DeFruyt@ugent.be no later than July 5, 2016. More info can be also obtained at this address or call +32 9 264 64 73.

Ayrton Senna Institute Chair @ Ghent University “Assessment and Development of Living and Employability Skills in Youth”

Chair holder: Prof. Dr. Filip De Fruyt

The Ayrton Senna Institute (ASI) is a Brazilian NGO that has been very active the past 20 years to support education and educational policy in Brazil. Already during his career as Formula 1 pilot, Ayrton Senna, as a national icon, had the ultimate dream and ambition to deploy an initiative that could contribute to the development of Brazilian youth. After the

tragic accident in 1994, his dream got realized and further elaborated by his sister Viviane Senna, psychologist from background training. The past 21 years, Viviane Senna has extended ASI towards a prominent and performant organization, that is also active internationally, among others via intense collaborations with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in the context of the development of 21st century skills.

In May 2015 ASI launched its own knowledge center, EDULAB21, to provide evidence-based support for the activities of the institute and beyond. In this context ASI installed a national chair at the renowned INSPER management school of Sao Paulo (chair holder Prof. Dr. Ricardo Paes de Barros). To finance an international chair, ASI chose exclusively for Ghent University, specifically for the research group on individual differences. The chair was officially installed in March 2016. The Ghent team, under the direction of the professors Filip De Fruyt and Barbara De Clercq, achieved a leading position on the assessment and development of individual differences in children and adolescents. The chair will enable the research group to expand its fundamental research in this domain and to apply this knowledge in the school and educational context.

The Chair in Ghent will conduct fundamental research on the assessment and development of social-emotional skills in youth and young adults. It will examine how individual differences like personality, self-efficacy, and cognitive functioning can be optimally assessed in the school context, to enhance our understanding of key factors affecting developmental trajectories of pupils. In addition, also the impact of specific interventions will be examined on skills' development. Social-emotional skills are thought crucial to explain a broad set of outcomes, from personal to professional life, but also health and well-being. The Chair also facilitates access to a broad set of data from Brazilian youth representing very diverse social-economic backgrounds. Together with ASI and its allied partners, the chair holder will help with the translation and dissemination of research findings to different stakeholders, including the general public and policy makers.