



## Service contract for a database designer / programmer in the *BirthRites* research group

The *BirthRites* independent research group is looking for a database designer / scientific programmer to support the development of relational databases for archival data. The short-term service contract will be on an honorarium (free-lance) basis.

### Background

The Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology unites scientists with various backgrounds (natural sciences and humanities) whose aim is to investigate the history of humankind from an interdisciplinary perspective. The *BirthRites* research group (led by Dr Heidi Colleran, <https://www.eva.mpg.de/birthrites/index.html>) focuses on the cultural anthropology of reproduction and its implications for evolution and demography.

### Aims

The aim of this project is to develop a user-friendly data-entry interface and database structure for the reconstitution of genealogical and demographic data from archival sources. The successful candidate will have strong programming / computational skills and experience developing databases and data-entry interfaces. The work will be carried out remotely. The initial project is expected to take about three-six months, with a start date as soon as possible. In addition to their core tasks on this initial project, the candidate will have opportunities to develop additional projects within the research group, and to interact with researchers in the fields of human behavior, evolution and anthropology.

### Requirements

#### Essential

- experience with relational database design / data-entry interfaces
- excellent communication and problem-solving skills, ability to work with an international team
- experience with a research computing language such as Python, C++, Julia, Java

#### Desirable

- interest in (historical) demography, family reconstitution methods, church records
- interest in Polish history, or Polish language competence (though not essential for the role)

The initial payment and length of contract period will be determined commensurate with experience as an honorarium (i.e. on a freelance basis). Start date is flexible but expected as soon as possible.



**Birth Rites**  
Cultures of reproduction



**Max Planck Institute  
for Evolutionary Anthropology**

## **Applications**

Please address questions and completed applications electronically to Dr. Heidi Colleran via Ms Jessica Fiegert ([jessica\\_fiegert@eva.mpg.de](mailto:jessica_fiegert@eva.mpg.de)).

Applications should include:

1. *Cover letter* describing your interest and how you meet the essential and desired requirements, including details of past research or computational projects (max. 2 pages)
2. *Curriculum vitae*
3. The names of two professional references

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until the position is filled.