

**Name of the institution:** Adam Mickiewicz University, Faculty of Human Geography and Planning

Project '*GAP*': "Study on 'the dialogue human with place.' Extention of the place agency concept to identify the human-environment relationship and record environmental signs of climate changes"; Principal investigator: Jacek Kotus

Additional recruitment to the Doctoral School of Social Sciences of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, PL, beyond the limit of places; discipline: Human Geography and Planning (1 positions)

1. Keywords: place agency, in-depth human-environment relations, Indigenous Groups, more-than-human approach, place, human, climate changes from a local perspective.
2. Project Description:

In the project, I offer one positions in doctoral studies for candidates interested in scientific development and carrying out a doctoral dissertation in human-place/environment relations. I also acquire quantitative and qualitative social research skills among indigenous people and local communities.

### **Main assumptions and aims of the project**

The basic assumption of the project and, more importantly, research activities originate from the questions: Are we as humans able to understand that our planet - particular places/environment around us - can be a more-than-human being (with self and agency) that is in reciprocal dialogue with us? Are we able to look at place or environment as being with a specific self? Are we able to be not only in human-centred to environment relations but also in symmetrical environment-human relations? Are we able to learn from our environmental (biotic and geographical) partners?, and last but not least what local communities and Tribal/Indigenous Groups talk about the changes taking place in their natural places? Searching for answers to these questions, the research team plans to identify the level of agency and emancipation of places/environments in the awareness, opinions and views of the local communities/Indigenous Groups.

The main aim of the proposed project is to investigate conceptually and empirically mentioned above 'a deeper sense of place' in the context of agency of place and reciprocal, symmetrical relations between human and the environment as well in the context of climate changes and signs of it in the environment.

Set of empirical aims is as follows:

- Identifying attitudes of Tribal (Embera) and Indigenous Groups (Stoney Nakoda First Nations) towards places/environment and the ways in which they experience them,
- Identifying the attitudes of non-Indigenous citizens of Panama and Canada towards places/environment and the ways in which they experience them.
- Identifying the public's 'deeper look at place/environment' deficits.
- Register environmental signs of climate changes at the local level narrated by the Tribal/Indigenous Groups and local communities
- Building "maps of attributes" of human-environment relationships perceived by Tribal and Indigenous Groups and non-Tribal/non-Indigenous citizens.

**Methodology:**

- continuous, dynamic in time ongoing studies, 2024-2028: two field stays in Darien (PA)
- in-depth qualitative studies of the views of Tribal/Indigenous Groups (Embera Tribe), as well as other members of local communities: Panama.
- quantitative survey research on a sample of residents of Panama.
- semantic analysis of Big Data

We invite applications from candidates interested in scientific development in the area of social field research in the human-environmental area, developing skills of a social researcher, research conducted in different cultures and touching on contemporary environmental problems of the planet, and ready to look at the bio and geo environment from the perspective of the concept of agency of non-human beings.

Candidate must have fluent knowledge of Spanish (field research in Panama) and English, excellent skills in interpersonal contacts and openness to people, readiness for field trips in foreign cultures and demanding field conditions (research in the Darien region - Panama tropical forests). The successful applicants must be able to work independently and in a structured manner and demonstrate good collaborative skills.

The project provides full financial support for field stays in Panama, participation in conferences and workshops, quantitative research, and a short-term stay at the University of

Texas at Austin. We will assist you in preparing your grant applications, establish cooperation with renowned foreign centers and develop your research.

There is one PhD position planned in the project:

The tentative scope of the PhD thesis is **"Agency and emancipation of the bio and geo environment in the opinion of indigenous people and local communities of Panama."**

The project will be supervised by Jacek Kotus (Adam Mickiewicz University).

PhD Student 1 will be responsible for qualitative and quantitative research in Panama (also the Darien region) among the Embera Indigenous Peoples and local communities of this country. Educational activities in local communities of Panama are also planned, related to presenting the natural and geographical environment as a set of non-human beings.

Tasks:

- preparation of research scenario among Indigenous Groups,
- preparation of field research in Panama,
- participation in a series of 2 field trips in Panama,
- analysis of the results of in-depth interviews,
- quantitative survey's data analysis,
- preparation of scientific articles in international journals
- participation in workshops and conferences
- development of own research qualifications
- dissemination of project results (lectures for schools, social media)
- cooperation with other team members
- dissemination of project results (lectures for schools, social media)

5. Principal investigator: prof. dr Jacek Kotus [tatra@amu.edu.pl](mailto:tatra@amu.edu.pl); [jacek.tusko@gmail.com](mailto:jacek.tusko@gmail.com),

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6. Recruitment schedule:

- Application and documents submission: from 15 July to 15 August 2025
- Selection procedure/interview: 02-04 September 2025
- Announcement of the list of admitted candidates: 15 September 2025
- Submission of documents in a paper version: 20- 29 September 2025

7. Scholarships

Scholarship: 5000 PLN gross per month (about 3800 PLN net per month) for two years and 6295 PLN gross per month in third and fourth year of PhD study.

**Additional information**

**Required documents:**

- a cover letter containing a statement: "Pursuant to Art. 6(1)(a) of the General Data Protection Regulation of April 27, 2016. (OJ EU L 119/1 of May 4, 2016) I consent to the processing of personal data other than: name, (names) and surname; parents' names; date of birth; place of residence (mailing address); education; the course of previous employment (jobs undertaken), included in my job offer for the purposes of current recruitment.”,
- CV containing information about achievements, including activities carried out so far, e.g. publications, conference speeches, participation in internships, training, scientific clubs, research projects and received awards, scholarships and average grades obtained during studies,
- possible scans of language certificates.

Pursuant to Article 13 of the General Data Protection Regulation of 27 April 2016. (Official Journal of the EU L 119 of 04.05.2016) we inform that:

1. The controller of your personal data is Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań with the official seat: ul. Henryka Wieniawskiego 1, 61 - 712 Poznań.
2. The personal data controller has appointed a Data Protection Officer overseeing the correctness of the processing of personal data, who can be contacted via e-mail: [iod@amu.edu.pl](mailto:iod@amu.edu.pl).
3. The purpose of processing your personal data is to carry out the recruitment process for the indicated job position.
4. The legal basis for the processing of your personal data is Article 6(1)(a) of the General Data Protection Regulation of 27 April 2016 and the Labour Code of 26 June 1974. (Journal of Laws of 1998 N21, item 94 as amended).
5. Your personal data will be stored for a period of 6 months from the end of the recruitment process.
6. Your personal data will not be made available to other entities, with the exception of entities authorized by law. Access to your data will be given to persons authorized by the Controller to process them in the performance of their duties.
7. You have the right to access your data and, subject to the law, the right to rectification,

erasure, restriction of processing, the right to data portability, the right to object to processing, the right to withdraw consent at any time.

8. You have the right to lodge a complaint to the supervisory authority - the Chairman of the Office for Personal Data Protection, ul. Stawki 2, 00 - 193 Warsaw.

9. Providing personal data is mandatory under the law, otherwise it is voluntary.

10. Your personal data will not be processed by automated means and will not be subject to profiling.