

About the Research Center for Educational and Network Studies (RECENS)

RECENS is led by Károly Takács, who runs a Consolidator Grant of the European Research Council (ERC) with the title “No Sword Bites So Fiercly as an Evil Tongue? Gossip Wrecks Reputation, but Enhances Cooperation”. RECENS conducts high quality research with a primary interest in the interrelated dynamics of social networks, cooperation and competition in various social contexts. RECENS is part of Centre for Social Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

The call is part of the project with the title “Competition and Negative Networks: The Origin, Dynamics, and Harmful Consequences of Negative Relations”, supported in the framework of the “Lendület” Program of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The highly prestigious “Lendület” program supports research groups in innovative scientific fields. RECENS is the only group that has received this support in the domain of sociology so far – and among the very few who received the grant in the social sciences.

RECENS is situated in Budapest, in the beautiful Buda castle. We are located in a historical building with a pleasant courtyard. It is a peaceful and relaxing environment, which provides ideal conditions for research in the heart of a vivid city. The building complex is dedicated purely for research: no students are around and no noisy breaks interrupt intense concentration of work.



We have our “own” corridor in the building that RECENS shares with scholars from sociology interested in social network analysis. We are part of the vivid and well-connected academic life of social networks analysts and network scientists in Budapest. We organize a seminar series and invite outstanding scholars from Hungary and from Europe to hold presentations on topics related to social networks, negative ties, and cooperation. We participate in international collaborations on social influence and network dynamics. Moreover, we invite guest researchers time to time who work on closely related projects and collaborate with us. We organize a reading group weekly where we discuss the most recent breakthrough papers published in top journals. Next to the PI, our own research group includes young and talented scholars (postdocs, PhD students, and selected Master students).

For orientation, here are some examples of our recent publications:

Számadó, S., Szalai, F., and Scheuring, I. 2016. Deception undermines the stability of cooperation in games of indirect reciprocity. *PLOS One*, accepted for publication.

Pál, J., Stadtfeld, C., Grow, A., and **Takács, K.** 2016. Status Perceptions Matter: Understanding Disliking among Adolescents. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, forthcoming.
DOI: 10.1111/jora.12231

Boda, Z. and **Néray, B.** 2015. Inter-Ethnic Friendship and Negative Ties in Secondary School. *Social Networks*, 43: 57-72.

Vukov, J., Varga, L., Allen, B., Nowak, M. A. and Szabó, G. 2015. Payoff components and their effects in a spatial three-strategy evolutionary social dilemma, *Physical Review E* 92, 012813.

Bravo, G., Squazzoni, F., and **Takács, K.** 2015. Intermediaries in Trust: Indirect Reciprocity, Incentives, and Norms. *Journal of Applied Mathematics*, Article ID 234528, Article ID 234528, doi:10.1155/2015/234528.

Takács, K., Squazzoni, F., Bravo, G., and Castellani, M. 2014. Employer Networks, Priming, and Discrimination in Hiring: An Experiment. In: Manzo, G. (ed.): *Analytical Sociology: Norms, Actions, and Networks*. Wiley & Son, 373-396.

Righi, S. and **Takács, K.** 2014. Emotional Strategies as Catalysts for Cooperation in Signed Networks. *Advances in Complex Systems*, 17(2), 1450011. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1142/S0219525914500118>.

Squazzoni, F., Bravo, G., and **Takács, K.** 2013. Does Incentive Provision Increase the Quality of Peer Review? An Experimental Study. *Research Policy*, 42(1): 287-294.

Mäs, M., Flache, A., **Takács, K.**, and Jehn, K. A. 2013. In the Short Term We Divide, in the Long Term We Unite: Demographic Crisscrossing and the Effects of Faultlines on Subgroup Polarization. *Organization Science*, 24: 716-736.

More information about our research group can be found at our webpage:

<http://recens.tk.mta.hu/en>

and on facebook. You can obtain more information about the PI at his webpage:

<http://web.uni-corvinus.hu/~tkaroly>.

Working conditions at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

The selected candidate will have no teaching obligations and can devote all of his or her time to research activities. Despite the salary conditions that are less favorable than in most of Western Europe, there are several advantages why one could chose to apply for our research fellow position. First of all, there is a lot of academic freedom. A relaxing research time would allow the successful candidate to finish and publish his or her ongoing work, next to the main research task that he or she is going to carry out during the two years contract period.

The selected candidate will be allocated with office space and desktop computer, access to printing, internet, etc. The office will be located in the Castle Hill of Buda, in a monument building that served for some years as the Parliament of Hungary. There is an annual budget for conference visits of the selected candidate. We expect, encourage, and assist the selected candidate to apply for further, external funding. We are happy, if you mobilize your network that allows us to build new collaborations and allows you to maintain your existing collaboration ties. You will gain new contacts, while you can certainly keep your current contacts alive. We facilitate applications for internal and external funds to welcome co-authors for a research stay. Absolutely no teaching is required.

Am I a good candidate?

We are seeking a postdoctoral researcher who will participate in our research project "Competition and Negative Networks: The Origin, Dynamics, and Harmful Consequences of Negative Relations". The project proposal is available at our website: recens.tk.mta.hu. Candidates should have received a Ph.D. already or should be able to demonstrate that their Ph.D. defense will take place in 2016.

We are seeking a postdoctoral researcher who will take a leading role in the design, programming, and conducting of experiments about cooperation, social influence, and informal communication in simple networks with positive and negative relations. We plan to conduct experiments in the lab as well as in the field and online. Therefore, familiarity with the software z-Tree is a requirement, and experience with o-Tree or any other online experimental platform is an advantage.

We seek candidates who are enthusiastic about the use of experimental methodology to test fundamental hypotheses about social behavior and are interested in the listed topics substantially.

What is my salary worth for?

With regard to your salary, the gross monthly amount we can offer is 360,000 HUF (=1,146 EUR). We know that this is not high, but you should know, however, that this sum is well above the mean income in Hungary and allows you to have a good standard of living while you are here. Budapest in fact is one of the cheapest capitals in Europe.

Your salary is higher than what Associate Professors earn in Hungary. You will be entitled for pension and free healthcare. There are no extra costs for healthcare insurance.

Other potential issues that might be relevant for you:

- You are entitled to use healthcare anywhere in the European Union,
- There are many different options on renting a house or an apartment in Budapest. You could check the prices and conditions at one of the commercial sites, for instance at ingatlan.com.
- In the center of the city you could easily find an apartment for 70,000 HUF per month, or for 100,000 HUF per month including utilities.
- If you prefer to live not so much in the center or in suburban areas, you have to pay certainly less. You can afford a larger (3-4 rooms) apartment or a house for the same amount.
- We would be happy to seek housing options for you.
- Not only housing, but life in general is cheap in Hungary. To give you some benchmarks:
 - a monthly ticket for public transport costs 9,500 HUF for adults,
 - a two-course lunch (soup and main dish) close to our offices costs 990 HUF,
 - a haircut at the hairdresser is 2,000 – 3,500 HUF,
 - a pint of beer at a bar is approx. 450 HUF,
 - a bottle of beer in the supermarket is approx. 200 HUF,
 - a kebab/gyros is 450 - 700 HUF.

What are the targets we should reach together?

We would like to carry out research at the highest international standards and publish our results in leading academic journals with considerable impact factor. The expectation from our side is that we should be able to submit one paper together per year to one of the leading journals.

Your primary task in the project will be to design, to program, to organize, to conduct, and to analyze experiments.

What happens if these targets are reached?

We offer a contract period of two years, starting from 1 April, 2016, the earliest. In case we evaluate the work of the selected candidate as successful, the contract can be extended.

How can I apply?

Applicants should send a CV and a sample paper no later than 16 March, 2016 to takacs.karoly@tk.mta.hu and Freigang.Istvan@tk.mta.hu.

Candidates will be asked to be available for a skype interview in the second half of March.

When can I start?

The position is available for a period of two years commencing 1 April, 2016, the earliest.

What if I have further questions?

For practical information, please contact István Freigang, research coordinator of RECENS at Freigang.Istvan@tk.mta.hu. You can address questions related to the research program to Károly Takács at takacs.karoly@tk.mta.hu.