



**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: JUNIOR RESEARCHER OR POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER**  
**Main Project: “Psychological Perspectives on Divine Forgiveness: A Mixed Method Study of Confession Among Spanish-Speaking Catholics”**

**Location:** [Institute for Culture and Society, University of Navarra \(Spain\)](#)

**Open date:** May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. **Deadline:** June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Contract Type:** Fixed term until 30th June 2025 (starting September-October 2023); Full Time

**Salary:** depending on experience and candidate profile

**Description:** The Institute for Culture and Society (ICS) at the University of Navarra seeks candidates interested in contributing to the research project funded by the John Templeton Foundation, title “Psychological Perspectives on Divine Forgiveness: A Mixed Method Study of Confession Among Spanish-Speaking Catholics”. The (ICS) of the University of Navarra will offer a 21-month contract to research assistants or postdoctoral researchers who wish to conduct a research stay at the Institute. ICS is a highly interdisciplinary humanities and social science research center.

**Main research project:**

Catholic individuals seek divine forgiveness (DF) through the ritual of confession, an interpersonal process involving not only the penitent (person seeking forgiveness) and the divine, but also the confessor (who is entitled to communicate absolution from sin and convey forgiveness on behalf of the divine). The interpersonal relationship with the confessor therefore has the added potential to either contribute to or inhibit experiencing DF and influence the processes of self-forgiveness (SF). This research project, directed by Martiño Rodríguez-González and María Calatrava at University of Navarra, will explore questions, including: What penitent variables (trait, situational, dispositional) influence the experience of DF through confession? Does the relationship with the confessor facilitate or hinder the experience of being forgiven by one’s self and God? How are DF and SF related in Spanish-speaking Catholic penitents following confession? Do DF and SF as facilitated through confession relate to well-being and flourishing?

This proposal applies the Fincham and May theoretical frame to understand the related processes between DF and SF in a unique sample of Catholic priests and penitents. Using a mixed methods research design, we propose to collect three data sources of penitents and confessors, including qualitative interviews and longitudinal and dyadic data. The research team comprises scholars around the globe with multidisciplinary backgrounds, including several Catholic priests, creating a strong interdisciplinary approach. In addition to journal articles, research reports and other scholarly products, the project intends to offer an online conference and practice guide to disseminate key findings to scholarly and practice audiences.

**Other research projects:**

It will be possible to participate in other research projects the group is developing, liked with young and adolescents, couples’ therapy, marriage success factors and affective maturity in adults.

**Candidate profile**

- Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology and doctoral grade (PsyD or PhD)
- Good administrative skills, and strong written and verbal communication
- Ability to work under pressure and excellent time management skills
- Have a good level of spoken and written English
- Experience coordinating day-to-day logistics of projects (for example, academic research projects and/or projects in industry/commercial spaces)
- Experience in writing scientific articles and oral communications in Scientific conferences
- Experience with quantitative and qualitative analysis and other research methods



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**Application submission deadline**

Candidates must send the required documentation via email to [mrgonzalez@unav.es](mailto:mrgonzalez@unav.es) before June 25<sup>th</sup>. More details could be requested at the same email.

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