POST-DOCTORAL ASSOCIATE
TERRA POPULUS PROJECT, MINNESOTA POPULATION CENTER

Requisition 189764

The Minnesota Population Center (MPC, www.pop.umn.edu) at the University of Minnesota is seeking a post-doctoral associate to join the Terra Populus (TerraPop) research team. The position will have responsibilities for conducting substantive human-environment interactions research utilizing the TerraPop data collection and integration tools, as well as performing associated data preparation tasks.

The goal of TerraPop is to integrate, disseminate, and preserve data describing the human population and environment spanning broad spatial and temporal scales. Integration is performed primarily through location-based linkages enabling transformations among individual- and household-level microdata, area-level data describing characteristics of places defined by boundaries, and raster/gridded data. The initial TerraPop data collection includes census microdata for over 20 countries (including historical data for many), extensive aggregate census data for the United States, multiple land-use/land-cover datasets, agricultural land use data, and long-term average climate data. The collection is continually expanding, and priorities may be influenced by the post-doctoral associate's particular interests and research direction. This position will report to the TerraPop project manager and will potentially collaborate with graduate research assistants and other project and center staff. Opportunities for collaboration also exist with other University units, such as the Institute on the Environment, Department of Geography, Environment and Society, and School of Public Affairs.

Responsibilities

The TerraPop post-doctoral associate will be expected to define and carry out one or more substantive research projects in the realm of human-environment interactions. The research should be of significant spatial and/or temporal scope (e.g., covering multiple countries or examining change over several decades) to showcase the utility of TerraPop's data integration capabilities. Potential topical areas for this research include, but are not limited to: assessment of exposure, vulnerability, and risk associated with natural disasters; interactions between climate change and migration; development pressure on conservation and biodiversity; and economic and social impacts of food security-related production gaps. The research should be presented at relevant academic conferences and submitted for publication.

In addition to this substantive research project, the post-doctoral associate also will assist in data preparation and processing tasks to support the expansion of the TerraPop data collection. Such tasks may include processing collected data to conform to established data structures; compiling, preparing, and maintaining metadata for collected data; and ensuring that data delivered by the TerraPop data access system are consistent with input data. Finally, MPC post-doctoral associates are expected to participate in the intellectual life of the center and to collaborate effectively with other project and center staff.

This post-doctoral appointment is for one year with renewal possible for a second year, dependent upon funding and performance.

Qualifications

Minimum Qualifications: Ph.D. in a social or environmental science (e.g. geography, sociology, natural resources management, economics or environmental sciences). Research interests related to human-environment interactions. Experience processing and analyzing population and/or environmental data in a variety of data structures (e.g., microdata, aggregate census data, GIS spatial data, rasters). Excellent interpersonal and written and verbal communication skills. Ability to perform work in a timely manner while being attentive to details. Ability to work independently and as part of a diverse team.

Additional Selection Criterion: Experience collaborating with academics and technical staff in a diverse, interdisciplinary environment.

Application Procedures

Please apply using the University of Minnesota's online employment system (**http://z.umn.edu/kah**). After completing the application information, attach the following documents separately: a cover letter; a curriculum vitae; contact information for three professional references; and a one-page description of a proposed research project to be undertaken during the appointment period. The description should touch on the research question, the temporal and geographic scope of the work, and types of data that may be used.

The search committee will review and consider applications immediately upon their receipt, and the position will remain open until filled. Questions concerning the application process may be addressed to Kathy McKee, HR & Operations manager, at mpc-jobs@umn.edu.

Any offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of a background check. Our presumption is that prospective employees are eligible to work here. Criminal convictions do not automatically disqualify finalists from employment.

The University of Minnesota shall provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

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