

Position Title:	Postdoctoral Fellow
Department:	Research Program on Children & Adversity (RPCA)
School or Division:	School of Social Work
Date posted:	03/27/18
Requisition number	1817

Role Summary

The Postdoctoral fellow will work across projects at the direction of Theresa Betancourt (PI) based primarily at Boston College with responsibilities to oversee all aspects of data management, data analysis, study design, and implementation science related to three projects:

- i) The *Sugira Muryango* (Strong Families) home-visiting Family Strengthening Intervention (FSI) that promotes positive parent-child relationships and fosters healthy early child development
- ii) Youth Forward, NIH funded U19, to establish a regional hub for the advancement of implementation science focused on scaling up evidence-based mental health interventions via alternate delivery platforms for youth exposed to war, community violence, and other adversities in West Africa
- iii) Refugee project, NIH funded R01, to address mental health disparities in refugee children through family and community-based prevention with Somali Bantu and Bhutanese refugees in New England

Reporting Relationship

The Postdoctoral fellow reports to the Principal Investigator of the studies.

Supervisory Responsibility

No supervisory responsibility.

Position Scope/Size Parameters

The RPCA is an applied research program dedicated to improving the evidence base on the epidemiology of mental health problems and family functioning as well as intervention research to develop and test mental health services for children and families

affected by multiple forms of adversity, including armed conflict, poverty, and infectious disease.

Through quantitative and qualitative research methods, the program investigates key mechanisms shaping child development and mental health. The program develops targeted psychosocial interventions that support positive life outcomes that can be effectively delivered at scale in low-resource settings. Overall, the program team works to develop evidence-based, transdiagnostic interventions that are feasible and cost effective, to support positive life outcomes. These outcomes are key to child health, social services, and the economic development agendas.

The research fellow will be directed by Dr. Theresa S. Betancourt.

A particular focus for this position is to provide high level modeling, data analysis, study design oversight, and implementation science processes.

Essential Functions

Data Management and Data Analysis (65%):

- Apply statistical analysis using multilevel modeling, coding, multiple imputation to address missing data, and sound data management, while overseeing technology-based data collection and data monitoring.
- Utilize mixed methodologies to triangulate, analyze and interpret qualitative and quantitative data.
- Provide implementation science expertise to support Program Managers and local teams with strong understanding of hybrid design, cluster randomized control trials, and quality improvement approaches to fidelity and supervision.
- Work alongside Program Managers, other Postdoctoral fellows, and co-investigators to provide study oversight, conduct assessments and evaluate program as needed.

Research and Dissemination (35%):

- Engage in high-level research and analysis, publishing on projects regarding ongoing work related to RPCA research
- Research, collect data, and synthesize a costing analyses to determine the financial feasibility of delivering the interventions, with the goal of informing program policymakers in LMIC settings, by providing a Return on Investment (ROI) analysis
- Qualitative and mixed method analysis of process evaluation data
- Collaborate on concept notes, grant writing, publications, multi-stakeholder reports, and presentations for international conferences.

Decision Making and Problem Solving

The Postdoctoral Fellow will need to be a self-driven, creative thinker with strong statistical and qualitative skills to help develop methods which investigate intervention effectiveness in terms of child development and parenting outcomes.

Coursework/training in psychometrics, hybrid designs, cluster randomized control trials, and implementation science is preferred.

Minimum Qualifications

University Core Competencies

Teamwork, Continuous Learning, Decision Making/Problem Solving, Communication, Applying Technology, Valuing Diversity, Big Picture Perspective, Openness to Change, Productivity

Functional and Technical Competencies. Education/Training and Certification, Licensure, etc...

Doctoral degree, preferably in Public Health, Implementation Science, Social Work, Developmental Psychology, Mental Health, or other related field.

Experience

- Strong ability in use of advanced statistical and computational programming
- Strong background in implementation science to include hybrid design, cluster randomized control trials, longitudinal studies, and quality improvement approaches to fidelity and supervision that relate to long-term sustainability and scalability
- Some background related to conducting research in culturally diverse contexts, preferably in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs)
- Publication record that demonstrates candidate's capacities is also desirable
- Proficiency in utilizing computer applications including Microsoft Office, STATA, R, MAXQDA, and other applicable quantitative and qualitative data analysis platforms.
- Expert knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies including mixed-methods
- Knowledge of Community Based Participatory Research (CPBR), implementation science in LMICs, processes related to fidelity monitoring and supervision, and costing analysis
- Understanding of the application of technology both for data collection as well as routine symptom monitoring, fidelity monitoring and quality improvement efforts in global mental health and child development.

Exceptional Work Schedule Demands

The Postdoctoral Fellow may work nights and weekends in order to meet project deadlines.

Working Conditions and/or Physical Demands

Ability to travel internationally in order to supervise and support research projects in Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and across New England. This position will be based 100% of the time in Boston. The fellowship is funded for one year, with the option to renew up to two years.

We welcome questions from interested candidates. Please contact: rpcalab_ssw@bc.edu

To apply, please refer to requisition 1817 on Boston College's Careers website:

<https://bc.csod.com/ats/careersite/search.aspx?site=1&c=bc>