

Postdoctoral Research Scholar

Boundary organizations aim to connect science to policy or management by mediating the flow of information among scientists, decision-makers, and other stakeholders. While there is a rich literature on boundary organizations, lacking are a set of actionable principles for translating scientific discovery into real-world guidance. Expanding the role of actionable science in a meaningful way must come – at least in part – from academic institutions.

Professors are primarily in the business of creating new ideas. While many faculty who engage in policy-relevant research yearn to make our results, knowledge, and ideas useful to decision-makers, we are constrained by institutional, linguistic, cultural, and other barriers. Similarly, while many universities have attempted to engage end-users in applied research, lacking is a proven model to ensure co-production of knowledge and solutions.

ASU is breaking the norms of conventional higher education by focusing on research that leads to action and impact. This gives us a unique opportunity to document the constellation of research centers and initiatives, and quantitatively examine the outcomes and opportunities. By focusing on ASU as a case study, we will identify an initial set of testable principles for designing scholarship that leads to societal outcomes. This research will shed light on potential mechanisms to reconcile models for contemporary academic success with models that lead to outcomes, effectively establishing best practices for a societally-relevant university.

The [Center for Biodiversity Outcomes](#) is a boundary organization whose mission is to enable discoveries and solutions needed to conserve and sustainably manage the Earth's biodiversity in a time of rapid biophysical, institutional, and cultural change. CBO strives to accelerate the success of biodiversity management and sustainable biodiversity outcomes by cultivating interdisciplinary collaboration and co-producing solutions with government agencies, non-governmental agencies, foundations and corporations. In which over 100 faculty affiliates with expertise ranging from supply chain management to biodiversity informatics, collaborate to frame biodiversity problems into research questions and engage with partner organizations in co-production of knowledge and solutions.

Description

The postdoctoral opportunity will conduct research on boundary organizations practice. The research has an application to multi-stakeholder (including corporations, agencies and policy makers) collaboration, communication and decision-making.

This Postdoctoral Research Scholar will:

- Collaborate on research on boundary organization practice and mechanisms to cultivate leadership and broad engagement. A special emphasis will be placed on writing journal manuscripts and coordinating the publication of journal manuscripts.
- Write proposals for support of research in boundary organization operation, collaborative knowledge building, and intra/inter organizational efficacy in problem solving.
- Collaborate with nongovernmental and intergovernmental partners in employing models of actionable science.

The scholar will be required to reside in the Phoenix, AZ area, to enable active engagement with ASU community, and external partners, policymakers and conservation practitioners.

Eligibility and Award Terms

This is a one-year position with potential for renewal. The scholar will receive an annual salary of \$50,000 per year plus benefits. Exceptional doctoral students may apply.

Application Materials

Applications must be submitted by February 28, 2019 to biodiversity@asu.edu if not filled, reviews will continue **every week** thereafter until the search is closed. In the subject line of the e-mail place your last name and Arizona State University. Submit the following materials (#1 & 2) as one PDF file:

1. **Cover letter and research approach** (two pages). Applicants should describe experience and suitability for the program. The proposal should illustrate the strengths of the applicant's experience towards developing and implementing this research.
2. **Curriculum Vitae or resume.**
3. **Letters of recommendation.** Arrange to have three letters of reference submitted to biodiversity@asu.edu with your name in the subject line.

For further information about this postdoctoral opportunity, please contact Leah Gerber at leah.gerber@asu.edu at the Center for Biodiversity Outcomes.