

Postdoctoral Research Scholar: Explaining Differential Success in Biodiversity Knowledge Commons

Position Description

The School of Life Sciences at Arizona State University invites applications for a full-time, fiscal-year appointment as a Postdoctoral Research Scholar. We are seeking a postdoctoral fellow to participate in a research project describing and explaining differential outcomes among collaborative, distributed communities of scientists leading biodiversity data commons on a shared software platform. The postdoc will lead ASU projects within the context of a collaborative grant between ASU and Purdue University to investigate the structures, functions, and outcomes of multi-institutional collaborations to digitize, curate and publish observations of biological species from museum collections and citizen science projects. The postdoc will work collaboratively to collect data from qualitative interviews and surveys of biodiversity scientists and stakeholders for the data commons and analyze these data with other quantitative measures of the properties and outcomes. The project PI, Beckett Sterner, is an expert in history and philosophy of data science and faculty in ASU's School of Life Sciences (SOLS). Project Co-PIs are Zoe Nyssa, an anthropologist of conservation science at Purdue University, and Steve Elliott, who studies the economics, social organizations, and reasoning strategies of research and is affiliated with ASU's Center for Gender Equity in Science and Technology. The qualified candidate is anticipated to start January 1, 2022 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Essential duties

1. Conduct qualitative interviews with scientists.
2. Conduct online surveys of visitors to data portal websites.
3. Analyze interview and survey data to characterize properties of portals, e.g. as socio-technical infrastructure and communities of practice
4. Write scientific papers associated with the research.
5. Travel to meetings to perform the work and present results.
6. Be an active member in research group activities (e.g., participate in lab meetings, mentor students).

Minimum qualifications

- Successful candidates must have at the time of appointment an earned doctorate in a relevant field, including (in alphabetical order): anthropology, biodiversity, bioinformatics, critical data studies, computer science, data science, history and philosophy of science, organizational science, sociology, science and technology studies, and related disciplines
- Successful candidates must be able to demonstrate training and expertise, either through research or coursework, in qualitative data collection and analysis.
- Successful candidates must show demonstrated success or evidence to work effectively in interdisciplinary teams, a strong record of scholarly achievement, and excellent communication skills.

Desired qualifications

Desired qualifications include a track record of coursework or research experience in one or more of the following skills:

- Survey design and analysis
- Quantitative social network analyses with large data sets

- Quantitative studies of online social communities, e.g. editing behaviors of Wikipedia contributors or issue management in open source software projects
- Data collection and analysis for systematic reviews of published and gray literatures
- Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)
- Biodiversity data analysis

Department information

The School of Life Sciences (SOLS) has provided a vital hub for creative excellence at Arizona State University, with more than 670 faculty, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and staff, and research that ranges from studies on biodiesel and biohydrogen to vaccine development and the conservation of whales. As ASU's first academic unit to fully reflect President Michael Crow's integrated, interdisciplinary vision for the New American University, the School of Life Sciences offers active and evolving platforms for collaborative, cutting-edge research and faculty whose discovery is freed from traditional institutional boundaries.

Arizona State University is a dynamic, progressive university dedicated to interdisciplinary collaborations, to rethinking university education, and to integrating excellence in research and teaching. The university has been ranked #1 for innovation by the US News & World Report for the past five years. ASU's School of Life Sciences is committed to curricular innovation in traditional and digital learning environments.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (<https://thecollege.asu.edu/faculty>) at ASU values cultural and intellectual diversity, and continually strives to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment. We are especially interested in applicants who can strengthen the College diversity of the academic community.

Application Instructions

To apply, please submit electronically to <Insert Interfolio link> the following materials:

1. Cover letter and research interests. Applicants should describe experience and suitability for the position. Unlike a standard cover letter, this proposal should highlight the strengths of the applicant's experience towards developing and implementing proposed research.
2. Curriculum vitae or resume.
3. A statement addressing how your past and/or potential contributions to diversity and inclusion will advance ASU's commitment to inclusive excellence.
4. Contact information (name, email and phone) for two or three references.

Review of applications will begin November 22 and will continue to review bi-weekly until the position is closed.

A background check is required for employment.

Arizona State University is a VEVRAA Federal Contractor and an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will be considered without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any other basis protected by law.

<https://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd401.html>. <https://www.asu.edu/titleIX>.

In compliance with federal law, ASU prepares an annual report on campus security and fire safety programs and resources. ASU's Annual Security and Fire Safety Report is available online at <https://www.asu.edu/police/PDFs/ASU-Clery-Report.pdf>. You may request a hard copy of the report by contacting the ASU Police Department at 480-965-3456.