Job Posting for a Postdoctoral Associate- Watershed Stewardship in the Hudson River Valley

Area of Research:

Dr. Praneeta Mudaliar (University of Toronto Mississauga) and Dr. Prakash Kashwan (Brandeis University) seek a highly motivated postdoctoral associate for their project on, "Rethinking Power Dynamics in Watershed Governance: Amplifying Racialized Voices for a Climate Resilient Hudson Valley in New York, United States." The goal of the research project is to center theories of political power to reimagine a more inclusive and representative form of watershed governance in the Hudson River Valley (HRV) watershed in New York, United States of America. The project will create a resource kit for watershed groups, decision makers, and policymakers for assessing power dynamics in watershed policies and programs.

We are seeking applicants with experience in conducting research and fieldwork on watershed governance, power dynamics, and environmental justice. Candidates must demonstrate an ability to conduct independent field research and an ability to work collaboratively in teams with faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students.

This position will begin as a one-year appointment, starting October 1, 2025 (start date negotiable). Reappointment is possible for an additional year, contingent upon available funding resources, available work, and the candidate's successful performance. The position is based at the University of Toronto Mississauga in Canada. Fieldwork is based in the Hudson River Valley in New York, United States. The candidate will have mentorship opportunities from Dr. Mudaliar and Dr. Kashwan. The candidate will have access to talks and seminars at the University of Toronto Mississauga, and opportunities to connect with faculty at the campus. This position does not require teaching. The position may require remote work, and travel between the United States and Canada.

Description of duties:

- Produce research synopses and literature reviews for the project.

- Conduct fieldwork for two fieldwork seasons, including archival research, key informant interviews, participant observation, and research on program implementation in the Hudson River Valley.

- Support data collection and management efforts for the projects, development of questionnaire, data entry, and analysis using qualitative research software.

- Analyze data and produce reports, policy briefs, journal manuscripts, and other public writing for broader dissemination.

- Develop infographics and other visualization tools to share findings.

- Participate in research dissemination and project meetings, including meetings with the Project Advisory Committee.

Required qualifications:

- Ph.D. by the start of the appointment. PhD in Environmental Studies, Geography, Political Science, Public Policy, or related fields, encompassing interdisciplinary Environment and Natural Resources, and Environmental Social Science.
- Demonstrated experience, research, and prior engagement theories of power, environmental justice, and collaborative watershed governance.
- Demonstrated experience in community-engaged research, and primary data collection in Canada or the United States.
- Strong qualitative research skills, including excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Proficiency in data analysis software such as NVivo, ArcGIS, and Storymap.
- Openness to engage with policy makers, community leaders, and government decision makers.
- A clear track record of scholarly writings and/or publications, and a commitment to mentoring graduate and undergraduate students.

Select candidates will be considered for:

1) University of Toronto Mississauga Postdoctoral Fellowship Award: https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/research-innovation/funding-awards/postdoctoral-fellows/internal-funding-postdocs/utm-postdoctoral-fellowship-award
2) Canadian Postdoctoral Research Award: https://sshrc-crsh.canada.ca/en/funding/opportunities/canada-postdoctoral-research-award-program.aspx

Application Instructions:

All individuals interested in this position must submit:

1) 2 page cover letter describing your interest in the position and a discussion of how the candidate meets the qualifications for the position.

2) Curriculum vitae.

3) 2 writing samples that demonstrate evidence of effective qualitative research, including interviews and ethnographic research.. (e.g., published manuscript and/or dissertation chapter)

4) Names and email addresses of 3 professional references in your CV.

to [praneeta.mudaliar@utoronto.ca] by the closing date: August 30, 2025.

Expected start date: October 1, 2025.

The normal hours of work are 40 hours per week for a full-time postdoctoral fellow (pro-rated for those holding a partial appointment) recognizing that the needs of the employee's research

and professional development and the needs of the supervisor's research program may require flexibility in the performance of the employee's duties and hours of work. Fieldwork may require work in the evening and/or over the weekend, depending on the time availability of interviewees and respondents.

Employment as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto is covered by the terms of the CUPE 3902 Unit 5 Collective Agreement.

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The University of Toronto is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from racialized persons / persons of colour, women, Indigenous / Aboriginal People of North America, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ2S+ persons, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas.