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Postdoctoral Scholar on the Social Diffusion of Climate-friendly Behaviors

Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and Human Dimensions Lab
Oregon State University Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Sciences

The Oregon Coop Unit and Human Dimensions Lab at Oregon State University are seeking a full-time Postdoctoral Scholar with a background in applied social science (e.g. psychology, economics, sociology, political science, communications) to join an interdisciplinary and multi-institution team to work on projects related to the social diffusion of climate-friendly behaviors. Candidates interested in pro-conservation behavior, climate psychology, collective action and pro-social behavior would be an excellent fit. The postdoctoral scholar will join a vibrant, collegial lab and have opportunities to develop and lead new research projects.

The postdoc will lead projects where they design and conduct interventions embedded in online survey experiments with behavioral outcomes. The primary focus of this work will be to examine what motivates people to engage in relational organizing, i.e. to encourage others in their social networks to adopt new climate-friendly behaviors. This research is part of a project funded by the National Science Foundation which aims to identify the social-psychological barriers to relational organizing, and to test the effectiveness of different messaging frames promoting relational organizing through online and field experiments in collaboration with partner organizations. The primary focus of this project is the adoption of more sustainable food choices.

The postdoc will also help design additional experimental or quasi-experimental studies that extend the framework of relational organizing to other climate change or conservation topics. Potential focal areas that the HD lab is already working on are human-bear conflict, human-beaver coexistence, habitat restoration, fisheries management, and organizational equity and inclusion.

The candidate will join the Human Dimensions Lab at OSU, where the project is housed, under the supervision of Dr. Megan Jones. They will be invited to join the Social Influence and Social Change Lab directed by co-PI Prof. Gregg Sparkman at Boston College. They will work closely with other researchers, including Dr. Courtney Dillard (Mercy for Animals) and Dr. Samantha Sekar (Stanford University), and the role also offers mentorship opportunities and research assistants to help conduct research.

Salary and Appointment: This position is fully funded for one year with a salary of \$62,000 plus benefits, and renewable for an additional 6-12 months depending on performance and funding.

Location: The HD Lab is located in Corvallis, Oregon, but this position can be completed remotely anywhere in the United States.

Start Date: The anticipated start date is July 2023, but may be flexible. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, with priority given to applications received by May 15, 2023.

Qualifications:

- A PhD in a relevant social or behavioral science by the start date
- Comfort with quantitative methods and data analysis, such as causal inference methods
- Familiarity with experimental design and/or evaluation of messaging campaigns
- Comfort with R or equivalent statistical programming languages
- Ability to work as part of a team with academic colleagues, practitioners, and students
- Past grant writing experience and interest in co-developing future projects related to climate change and fisheries and wildlife conservation

To apply, please send a CV, contact information for three references, and 1-2 page cover letter describing your interests related to the project and your past experience to Dr. Megan Jones at Megan.Jones@oregonstate.edu.

As a research team we are committed to equity, inclusion, and justice, and we particularly welcome applicants from historically underrepresented groups, especially Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, women, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and people with disabilities.

The Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit is housed within Oregon State University's Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences. The Oregon Coop Unit conducts research on renewable natural resource questions, participates in the education of graduate students, provides technical assistance and consultation on natural resource issues, and provides continuing education for natural resource professionals. Oregon Coop Unit cooperators include the U.S. Geological Survey, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State University, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and the Wildlife Management Institute. This Postdoctoral Scholar position will be housed within the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences at Oregon State University.