Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship in Urban Equity and/or Environmental Justice

The School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning (SGSUP) at Arizona State University (ASU) invites applications for up to two postdoctoral scholar positions aimed at understanding, empowering, and/or improving the wellbeing of historically marginalized communities, including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. We are particularly interested in scholars with geography, planning, or related expertise in Urban Equity and/or Environmental Justice, including but not limited to race, ethnic, or cultural studies that engage Latinx, Indigenous and/or Black communities. We anticipate the postdoctoral scholars will work with and help develop SGSUP’s new Equitable Places Lab. Someone in this position could also pursue community outreach and activities as a part of their scholarship. The postdoc will be encouraged to pursue affiliations and collaborations with other Schools at ASU. Candidates with research experience in domestic or international settings are welcome to apply.

Primary job duties will include:

- A focus on advancing research and developing a research agenda appropriate for a tenure-track academic position. This includes publishing peer-reviewed articles, presenting research at national and international conferences, and pursuing research funding.
- The opportunity to pursue teaching and/or other educational opportunities such as co-teaching, delivery of seminars, or other creative activities.

Existing expertise in SGSUP include human-environment interactions; climate dynamics; transportation analyses; spatial analysis; urban sustainability; community development and well-being; and related areas of scholarship. As a whole, our faculty tend to employ theoretically-informed empirical research using spatial, quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods.

The SGSUP is committed to providing individualized, postdoc-centered mentorship and career development to ensure each candidate is well prepared to succeed in a future tenure track appointment. Once hired, the postdoctoral scholar’s will develop a postdoc plan with their mentoring team, which will be determined with the scholar and the search committee and will include a primary mentor.

The SGSUP postdoctoral scholars selected will join a cohort of 10-15 other postdoctoral scholars as part of the ASU’s Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship Program. The goal of the program is to support the career development of outstanding Ph.D. recipients with great potential for advancing the ASU Charter in a future tenure-track appointment at ASU. All postdoctoral fellowship positions are for one year. Options for an additional year of funding and a transition to a tenure-track position after one or two years may be offered, depending on each fellow’s training needs and progress. Faculty tenure-track appointments will require a process of review within the designated tenure home unit. The program seeks applicants whose professional preparedness, experience, and accomplishments are informed by experiences working with and within groups historically underrepresented in higher education in the United States. Where pools of qualified applicants are strong, priority will be given to applicants who demonstrate, through prior actions and achievements, intentional and actioned commitment to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Examples of such contributions are research or creative activity focused on empowering underserved populations; teaching, mentorship, and service that increases equitable access; and inclusion in fields where historically excluded populations are underrepresented.
About Arizona State University
ASU is a large, comprehensive, research university and for nearly two decades, has transformed into the “New American University,” one dedicated to the simultaneous pursuit of excellence, broad access to quality education, and meaningful societal impact. By our Charter and Design Aspirations, we center inclusion and success as values that drive the enterprise; adopt inter- and transdisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning as ways to address society’s greatest challenges; and develop innovative partnerships to produce master learners across the lifespan. To learn more about ASU, visit http://www.asu.edu.

Qualifications and Characteristics

Minimum qualifications
- PhD in geography, planning, or a related field by the start date
- Strong record of research or scholarly activities with equity or justice dimensions
- Effective communication skills

Desired qualifications
- Evidence of the ability to publish academic research
- Evidence of the pursuit or securement of research funding
- The ability to articulate how the candidate’s research fits with ongoing research activities and degree programs in the School
- Experience working in transdisciplinary or collaborative teams

This position is located at the Tempe campus of ASU. All postdoctoral fellowship positions are for one year. Options for an additional one or two years of funding or a transition to a tenure track position may be offered, depending on each fellow’s progress and training needs. Faculty tenure track appointments will require a process of review within the designated tenure home unit.

Applications and Inquiries
Applications can be submitted online via http://apply.interfolio.com/89740, including a) curriculum vitae; b) a letter of interest describing how you meet the qualifications noted above; c) a statement addressing how your past and/or potential contributions to diversity, equity, and inclusion will advance ASU’s Charter; and d) contact information, including email addresses, for 3 references. Application deadline is September 1, 2021. Applications will continue to be accepted on a rolling basis for a reserve pool, which may then be reviewed in the order in which they were received until the position is filled. Inquiries can be directed to Professor Kelli Larson at Kelli.Larson@asu.edu.

A background check is required for employment. ASU is a VEVRAA Federal Contractor and an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. (See https://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd401.html and https://www.asu.edu/titleIX). In compliance with federal law, ASU prepares an annual report on campus security and fire safety programs and resources, which is available online. You may request a hard copy of the report by contacting the ASU Police Department at 480-965-3456.