

### Postdoctoral Fellow in Field Experiments and Public Engagement

Public participation and public consultation are generally viewed as desirable approaches to democratize decision-making. But who participates in public consultation events and what motivates individuals to attend? How do we know if the public consultation has been a success? This research program aims to measure the impact of public participation processes through the use of field experiments in the context of groundwater management. We aim to learn about what formats of public engagement can ensure high participation, develop trust, generate consensus, or provide actionable recommendations. In close collaboration with partners in Mexico, we aim to design public engagement events and measure their impact on public perceptions and policy outcomes.

### **Position**

The Water Planning Lab at the University of British Columbia is seeking a postdoctoral fellow that will play a lead role in a research program focused on the use of field experiments to understand public engagement, consultation and participation. The postdoctoral fellow will assist in the development of the research program, the execution of the public consultation events, and the data analysis, as appropriate.

The successful candidate will work with the research team at the University of British Columbia and partners in Mexico to (i) assist in the design of multiple field experiments on public engagement, including possible pilot interventions (ii) prepare materials for the public engagement events (iii) liaison with partners in Mexico (iv) serve as the primary facilitator in the public consultation events on groundwater management with citizens in Mexico, and (v) assist in the data collection and analysis as appropriate.

The postdoctoral fellow will be expected to develop his or her own research agenda related to the experimental data being generated. The postdoctoral fellow may also assist in the development of related projects that aim to examine the impact of community water monitoring in improving resource management, co-responsibility and stewardship. The postdoctoral fellow will also have time to advance their own and ongoing research agenda that may be unrelated to this project.

The postdoctoral researcher will join a dynamic and dedicated research community working with Dr. Jordi Honey-Rosés at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. The position is based in Vancouver but the person will be expected to spend extended periods of time in Quintana Roo, Mexico.

### Funding

The position is available from September 2017 to May 2019 (20 months), with possibility of renewal subject to funding availability. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. This position is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and funding from the Faculty of Applied Sciences.

### Qualifications

The ideal candidate will have proficiency at least two of the three following areas:

- Experimental research designs in the social sciences (Gerber and Green 2012; Glennerster and Takavarasha 2013).
- Methods and theory of public engagement, public participation, consensus-building or scenario-planning.
- Spanish

In addition, the strong candidate will:

- Have experience developing workshops and engaging with the public.
- Have experience in quantitative methods and causal inference.
- Have basic knowledge in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), especially creating and editing SHP files, interfacing with Google platforms, and producing maps for the public.
- Have knowledge of water resource management, watershed management, and water governance.
- Holds a Ph.D. in a relevant field (e.g., economics, political science, urban planning)
- Has demonstrated high productivity in producing peer-reviewed publications

- Works well both independently and as part of an interdisciplinary team
- Has strong time management, organizational, and project management skills, and
- Is able to communicate effectively with researchers in various disciplines and with nonacademic members of governments, communities, and the private sector.

### Application

Applicants should submit a statement of interest, a C.V., and two representative publications or papers as one PDF document to Dr. Jordi Honey-Rosés ( [jhoney@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:jhoney@mail.ubc.ca) ) with “Postdoctoral Application” as the subject line. In addition, please submit one referral letter to the same address. Applications will be considered starting

**July 15, 2017**

, until the position is filled.

### References

Gerber, Alan S., and Donald P. Green. 2012. Field Experiments: Design, Analysis and Interpretation. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Co.

Glennerster, Rachel, and Kudzai Takavarasha. 2013. Running Randomized Evaluations: A Practical Guide. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.