

ANNOUNCEMENT

Graduate Research Assistant Paid Position CU Denver

The research assistant (RA) will join Dr. Esther Sullivan (CU Denver Department of Sociology) and the project team to assist with outreach, recruiting of participants, and data collection for a project on air quality, wellbeing, and environmental disruptions. Following is a description of the project, details about the RA position, and application instructions.

Please note: We are especially interested in hiring an RA with significant ties to individuals and community organizations in the Globeville, Elyria Swansea, and Cole neighborhoods of Denver, which are the site of this study.

Project Description

Major construction projects across the U.S. have heavy impacts on communities that can last decades. These projects can generate noise and air pollution, disrupt traffic, and affect individual and community health. Environmental justice communities, or communities with large numbers of minority and/or low-income households, are disproportionately subject to negative health and environmental effects. This project partners with three environmental justice communities in Denver, Colorado: Globeville, Elyria Swansea, and Cole (GESC). The project aims to understand and help mitigate the disruption caused by two major disruptions: the I-70 highway reconstruction project and related neighborhood redevelopment around the National Western Complex. Our effort will create a socio-technical system that equips community members with environmental sensors to monitor their personal environment (air and noise pollution) and a set of smartphone apps to report their individual wellbeing and social relations. The data reported through the sociotechnical system will allow us to 1) understand how community members are affected by planned environmental disruptions, 2) mitigate negative impacts of future planned disruptions, and 3) connect policymakers to data generated by citizens within local communities. By providing communities access to data with smart and connected cutting-edge tools and the ability to interact with these tools, the project aims to improve community members' personal environment, wellbeing, and social relations, while enabling evidence-based responses to community members' experiences and informing policymakers in real-time.

Research Assistant Position Description

The RA will be responsible for outreach to individuals and community organizations in the GESC neighborhoods. These activities will include direct outreach and engagement with GESC community organizations with whom the project is currently partnering, as well as the developing new relations with community organizations according to shared interests. The RA will also participate in organizing and co-conducting resident and stakeholder focus groups. The RA will participate (remotely) in bi-weekly project meetings. All work will be done remotely during COVID-19.

Minimum Qualifications

- Experience working with community organizations on issues of health and/or environmental justice
- Excellent communication skills
- Experience working with a team to accomplish complex goals
- Ability to use Microsoft Excel for data management
- Comfortable contacting professional staff and others for outreach
- Ability to use Zoom for scheduling and conducting meetings
- Comfort interfacing with smart phone apps developed by the project
- Knowledge of the GESC neighborhoods

Preferred qualification

- Spanish fluency
- Personal or professional ties to the GESC neighborhoods
- Experience working with stakeholders and/or community organizations in the GESC neighborhoods

Schedule and Compensation

This RA position will ideally begin early in the Spring 2021 semester and continue through the calendar year. Opportunity to remain on the project through 2022-23. There may be opportunities for advancement or shifts in primary tasks, depending on the RA's performance and interest. The research assistant will be expected to work ~10 hours per week during academic months (this is flexible) and will be compensated at a rate of \$20 per hour.

Eligibility and Application Process

Currently enrolled graduate students at the University of Colorado Denver are eligible to apply.

To be considered, please send the following material, in a single PDF document, to Esther Sullivan (esther.sullivan@ucdenver.edu):

1. A cover letter (1-page maximum) that describes your interest in the project, your connections to the GESC neighborhoods, and summarizes your relevant skills and experience
3. A current resume or CV.
4. The name and contact information of one reference. This will most likely be a faculty member, but could be a professional supervisor or colleague.

If you have questions about the project or positions, please email esther.sullivan@ucdenver.edu.