Call for Applicants: Research Justice Shop Graduate Student Researcher Positions

Advanced Graduate Student Researchers (GSR IV)
Research Justice Shop
Newkirk Center for Science & Society
University of California, Irvine
1 Year: January 2022 - Fall 2022

About us

The Research Justice Shop (RJS), co-founded in 2018, seeks to transform research practices to be more inclusive by facilitating equitable collaboration between the university and the communities most impacted by our collective social and environmental problems. As such, the RJS contributes to UC Irvine's aspiration to be a Minority Thriving Institution, a great partner to Orange County's diverse communities, and at the forefront of interdisciplinary, cutting-edge research.

RJS trains individuals and organizations in research justice and community-based research methods; we consult on and implement community engagement strategies and conduct research projects that use community-based research methods such as participatory action research and photovoice; we also study community-campus partnerships and the pedagogy of engaged scholarship.

The RJS strives to foster a working environment and approach that reflects our values and welcomes and respects multiple perspectives, backgrounds, and life experiences including in terms of race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, religion, veteran status, socioeconomic status, disability, and justice system involvement. RJS is committed to interdisciplinarity; therefore, we encourage applicants from all disciplines to apply. For more information about the Research Justice Shop visit: https://newkirkcenter.uci.edu/researchjustice/

About the position

The Research Justice Shop is hiring two advanced Graduate Student Researchers (GSR), funded by the University of California Presidential Chair’s interprofessional initiative and the UC Irvine Graduate Division, to provide support for our research project focused on the intersection of the science of team science and community-based research. The GSRs will be responsible for conducting a case study of the MPNA-UCI Collaborative Table, which was established in 2019. The Collaborative is a group of researchers from UCI and staff from a local non-profit organization (MPNA-GREEN) who are working together across disciplines and sectors on research questions generated by the problems that residents of the Madison Park Neighborhood Association face, in particular, air pollution and other issues of environmental injustice. The researchers and organization staff approach these problems using research methods from public health, anthropology, medicine, and law, among others.
The GSR IV will investigate the needs, challenges, and opportunities of community-campus partnerships conducting community-based, transdisciplinary research. GSRs will analyze these phenomena from the perspective of university partners (e.g. faculty, staff, and students), community partners (e.g. non-profit organization representatives, community stakeholders, and residents), and institutional partners (e.g. local governing agencies, funding agencies). This research will provide insights into models and practices for community-campus partnerships by asking: what resources, infrastructure, and capacities sustain community-campus partnerships to work across disciplines and support the production of research that both enacts and addresses social and environmental justice and university commitments to serve minoritized populations (e.g. Hispanic, Black, Asian American, Native American, Pacific Islander)?

For the case study, the GSRs IV will review and summarize existing relevant literature, co-design research, implement empirical data collection, analyze data, and synthesize findings. GSRs IV will be responsible for presentation and other communications of results through the RJS blog and creation of an internal report. The GSRs may also present findings at professional conferences (e.g. InteReach, Community-Campus Partnerships for Health, Living Knowledge) and prepare manuscripts in collaboration with RJS co-directors. GSRs will be encouraged to include the process and results of the research in their dissertations as relevant and appropriate.

The GSRs will work collaboratively as an interdisciplinary team and may also collaborate and support the RJS’s graduate student fellow research projects and RJS communications with the assistance of an undergraduate social media intern.

GSRs are expected to begin Winter 2022 for 1 full calendar year (estimated through Fall 2022). GSRs are expected to prioritize regular synchronous meetings with co-directors (estimated weekly), MPNA-UCI Collaborative members (e.g. faculty, student, and community partners) (estimated: quarterly) and for data collection as needed (estimated weekly). This work may be conducted virtually following UC Irvine guidelines for COVID-19.

This is an exceptional opportunity to contribute to a unique project with significance for real-time social and environmental problems impacting residents of Orange County. Findings will also contribute to a growing area of scholarship in the science of team science.

GSR Qualifications:

- PhD candidate at the University of California, Irvine
- Professional and personal experience or training in community-based research
- Professional experience or training in or strong interest/commitment to learning about team science
- Knowledge and/or experience or strong interest/commitment to learning qualitative social science methods (e.g. interviews) and evaluation (e.g. analyzing program evaluation data)
- Detail oriented or commitment to grow in this capacity
● Demonstrated ability/experience working as a member of cross-disciplinary team or commitment to grow in this ability
● Demonstrated ability/experience working independently or commitment to grow in this ability
● Preference for students who are bilingual/biliterate in English and Spanish

Requirements
● Can commit to the position for 1 calendar year
● GSR IV: 50% FTE/average 20 hours per week.

How to Apply
To apply, please submit a letter of interest (not more than 1 page) describing your qualifications and interests, your curriculum vitae, the names and contact information for three references, and a writing sample to: researchjustice@uci.edu. Applicants should combine the letter of interest, cv, transcript and list of references into a single PDF or Word document and label it as : Last name_First Name_RJS_GSR_Application2021-22.pdf. Writing sample should be a solo authored piece. It can be an unpublished academic paper, a substantive blog, or other piece that demonstrates the applicant’s writing skills.

We will begin reviewing applications on Monday, November 1st at 9 am PDT. Priority will be given to applications submitted before this time. Finalists will be notified Monday, November 15th and interviews will be conducted virtually the following Monday, November 22, please save the dates. If this date conflicts with teaching or classes we will work with finalists to find an alternative time. Questions can be emailed to researchjustice@uci.edu.