

Summer Research Project

Job Information

Title of Research Project: **Inequality and Ecosystem Services**

Title for the position: human-environment research assistant

Proposed Start Date: **May 1st, 2023**

Name and Title of Supervisor: **Karina Benessaiah, assistant prof. Human Dimensions of Global Change**

Department: **Geography, Environment and Geomatics**

Type of position: **URA** **ISURA** **USRA** **USRA (non-quota)**

Brief Outline of Research Project:

Rising inequality considerably challenges our ability to transform to a just and sustainable society, yet we still do not understand very well how inequality affects the provision and management of ecosystem services (the benefits that people derive from nature). This research project will aim to conduct a literature review to examine more carefully how inequality and ecosystem services have been linked, especially in more recent literature. Case-studies will be identified and analyzed to understand changing patterns of inequality and their relationships with ecosystem services. The student will have the opportunity to learn about and connect two fields that are often approached separately.

Job description (task/responsibilities, relevant scheduling details, and required and/or preferred qualifications):

The student will acquire first-hand knowledge regarding qualitative and mixed-methods approaches. The student will learn how to enter and manage data, how to do preliminary data analysis and will gain insights into how to synthesize knowledge and critically assess scientific knowledge. The student will learn how to code and analyze qualitative data. The student will contribute to a broader research project aiming to further understand how inequality affects our efforts towards sustainability.

Students with a passion for the environment and social justice are encouraged to apply. Interest about the concepts of ecosystem services and/or inequality is a plus; experience with qualitative research including literature reviews and thematic coding an asset; experience with database management and analysis a plus.

The salary for this URA is 18.50\$/hr for an estimated 35 hours/week for 16 weeks. This position can be done remotely.

The student will meet weekly with the supervisor, which will provide the student with the opportunity to receive feedback on their work. Guidance will be provided regarding the literature review search, annotated bibliography and/or data entry and coding. One or two team meetings may be organized where the student will get immersed in collaborative team meeting. The student will be expected to write a short mid-term and final term self-assessment reflecting on their experience and what they learned from the research process.