

Postdoctoral Fellowship Position: Knowledge Co-production and Transdisciplinary Approaches for Sustainable Nunatsiavut Futures

May 11, 2020

We are seeking a 2-year postdoctoral fellow (PDF) to join a transdisciplinary marine research project in Nunatsiavut, Labrador. The position will be held at Dalhousie University in Halifax and will be co-supervised by Drs. Melanie Zurba (School for Resource and Environmental Studies and the College of Sustainability), Eric Oliver (Department of Oceanography) and Megan Bailey (Marine Affairs). The anticipated start date for the position is August 1, 2020.

The Nunatsiavut Futures research project spans the natural and social sciences under the overarching goal of developing partnerships between academics and Indigenous communities to inform sustainable resource management of coastal systems in Canada's North. Our project is structured as three research themes which (A) develop empirical understandings of dynamic coastal systems and (B) plan for changes in these dynamics through (C) transdisciplinary research and knowledge co-production with a wide range of partners.

Understanding and predicting change within these locally, regionally and globally significant ecosystems requires the co-development of research objectives and approaches. To accomplish this objective, the overarching project will design and execute field efforts that integrate community-engaged knowledge and monitoring with novel western science and modelling. We will use knowledge from this project to inform and support decision-making on spatial planning and resource management to provide the foundation for long-term monitoring and risk assessments of key species and habitats.

Individuals involved in this research are committed to collaborating with partners across disciplines and in local communities. Project members will centralize knowledge co-production processes to ensure that the research design, methods, and use of results transcend scientific disciplines and diverse cultures. Project members will work closely with Inuit community members and representatives in Nunatsiavut and have an interest in both community and academic engagement.

The PDF will have a PhD in fisheries, marine management, resource economics, environmental studies, biology, oceanography, or similar, and have experience in interdisciplinary work and collaboration, with an aptitude in both social and natural sciences. The PDF will play a key role in research and will also assist with the coordination of the project logistics. The focus of the PDF research will be the development and implementation of frameworks for knowledge co-production involving diverse knowledge systems, including western-scientific and Inuit knowledge. It is likely that the position will include travel between Dalhousie University and communities in Nunatsiavut.

Applicants should send a cover letter, CV and short statement (1-2 page) of research interest to Drs. Melanie Zurba (Melane.Zurba@dal.ca), Eric Oliver (Eric.Oliver@dal.ca) and Megan Bailey (Megan.Bailey@dal.ca) by June 1, 2020. If this deadline is not feasible for you at this current time, please reach out to any of the above to discuss alternatives.

