MPC

Minnesota Population Center
University of Minnesota

Research Associate Wanted
ISTADS Project

The Minnesota Population Center is seeking an experienced researcher for its Spatial Analysis Core which facilitates the development of new tools and methodologies for the analysis of geographic datasets.

Responsibilities

The research associate is responsible for significant components of the Integrated Spatio-Temporal Aggregate Data Series Project (ISTADS) and conducts related research in population studies. The position's primary responsibilities are as project manager/researcher on ISTADS, overseeing activities necessary to integrate and disseminate data from NHGIS.org. As part of the ISTADS team, the research associate analyzes data, facilitates tool development, investigates variable coding schemes, documents variable comparability issues, writes web-based documentation, and works collaboratively with the principal investigators and other research staff. As project manager/researcher, the research associate is responsible for: 1) expanding the NHGIS database to include newly-available aggregate census data and county-level vital statistics; 2) facilitating the development of tools that work with the metadata system to identify comparable data elements across censuses; 3) constructing integrated statistical tables; 4) helping refine and implement a web-based interface to data and metadata; and 5) developing the generalized GIS Boundary Files. The research associate also collaborates in the creation of integrated geographic units that maximize cross-temporal comparability through aggregation and interpolation. Besides project-specific duties, research associates at the Minnesota Population Center conduct grant-supported research in population studies and are expected to participate intellectually in the life of the center with faculty, other researchers, and graduate student members.

Qualifications

Required: Ph.D. in a population-related field (e.g., sociology, economics, public health) and/or extensive population research in another field (e.g., history, geography or public affairs). Proven ability to organize, prioritize, and manage numerous tasks. Ability to communicate effectively with a wide variety of individuals. Excellent computer skills, including experience with HTML/XML, and extensive experience with both statistical and GIS census data using major statistical and GIS packages (SPSS, STATA, SAS and ESRI GIS software). Ability to solve problems quickly and resolve situations as they arise, including knowing when to involve others from the research team. *Preferred*: Experience analyzing historical US census data and other aggregate data in combination with the use of GIS boundary files. Experience collaborating with academics and technical staff in an interdisciplinary environment. Experience working in Unix. Programming skills in C++, C#, Java, Python.

Application Procedures

Applicants must apply using the U of M online system (https://employment.umn.edu/ - requisition number 162796). Please include a resume/curriculum vitae, cover letter, and contact information for three professional references. Contact Kathy McKee (mckee@umn.edu) with any questions. We will begin reviewing applications immediately and will continue until the position is filled.