

Postdoctoral Fellowship – Immediate Opportunity
Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute at Northeastern University

The Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute (SSEHRI) invites applications for a postdoctoral fellowship in “Social Science-Environmental Health Collaboration” to start immediately. SSEHRI, at Northeastern since 2012, continues the legacy of the Contested Illnesses Research Group at Brown University, which began in 2000. SSEHRI trains graduate students and postdocs in community-based participatory research aimed at transforming and improving environmental health. By linking environmental health science, sociology, anthropology, science and technology studies, and community-based organizations, SSEHRI develops novel approaches to studying environmental health questions. It currently has 5 faculty members, 1 postdoc, 14 doctoral students, and 2 MA/MPH students. It has extensive collaboration with Silent Spring Institute on multiple grants since 2004, as well as collaborations with breast cancer, environmental health, and environmental justice organizations.

The applicant will have completed their PhD in a social science or environmental health discipline, have had experience in environmental health research and practice, and be familiar with environmental justice and community-based participatory research.

Specific tasks include:

- 1) Personal Exposure Report-Back Ethics – This project with our collaborators at Silent Spring Institute involves analyzing data from existing study sites where biomonitoring has been conducted, helping collect data from newer sites, and helping develop the report-back for PROTECT (Puerto Rico Test Site to Explore Contamination Effects - Superfund Research Program), which studies the effect of environmental contaminants on pre-term birth in Puerto Rico.
- 2) PROTECT (Puerto Rico Test Site to Explore Contamination Effects - Superfund Research Program). Working with the Research Translation Core, the postdoc will help develop and distribute public education brochures on chemical exposure reduction; help develop and distribute a medical education bulletin for doctors and nurses on reproductive health and the environment; help on a survey of physicians’ knowledge of environmental health factors in disease; and help work on a December conference on Reproductive Health and the Environment and on other local outreach work in Boston.
- 3) “Northeast Ethics Education Partnership for Research Ethics/Cultural Competence Training” Work on this NSF-funded project involves conducting environmental ethics presentations on campus; recruiting graduate students and postdocs in Engineering, Marine and Environmental Science, and other science departments to take a free on-line ethics course, and also provide feedback to them on brief written assignment, and develop powerpoint presentations for the on-line library of the Northeast Ethics Education Partnership,

The postdoc will also learn much from attending the joint meetings of our NIEHS Training Program, “Transdisciplinary Training at the Intersection of Environmental Health Science and Social Science” and our “NSF Training Program, “New Directions in Environmental Ethics: Emerging Contaminants, Emerging Technologies, and Beyond” As part of this Training Program participation, the postdoc will help mentor doctoral and MA students.

The postdoc will have the opportunity to learn a lot from regular participation in SSEHRI's weekly research meeting, and in PROTECT's many seminars and webinars. Our PROTECT team, joined by new colleagues, has just been awarded a grant to begin the Children's Environmental Health Center, the Center for Research on Early Childhood Exposure and Development in Puerto Rico (CRECE). CRECE will follow the children born to PROTECT mothers, adding additional exposures and additional outcomes. The postdoc will have the opportunity to be involved in that as well. The postdoc will have time to write up their own work and develop research proposals. They will have opportunities to co-author articles with us on these various projects, and we have a great track record of publication in environmental health, sociology, public health, and science & technology studies. Our past postdocs have found a variety of interesting tenure-track appointments in Anthropology, Sociology, and Environmental Studies departments, as well as a AAAS Fellowship.

While this position is funded for only one year, we will encourage the postdoc and help them to get grant support to continue with SSEHRI.

Candidates should send a letter of application, a curriculum vitae, and writing samples (published or unpublished). Three letters of reference, including one from the dissertation advisor should be sent. All materials will go to: Professor Phil Brown, Northeastern University, 318 INV, Boston, MA 02115 or by e-mail to p.brown@neu.edu. After initial screening, a short list of applicants will be asked to submit their materials to a university portal.