

RESEARCH SCIENTIST
MINNESOTA POPULATION CENTER

University of Minnesota Job Opening ID 315207 Researcher 6

The Minnesota Population Center (MPC, www.pop.umn.edu) makes the world's largest collection of individual-level population data freely accessible online. We are looking for smart, technically-minded people who enjoy working with data to join our team. With thousands of researchers using these data worldwide, a career at the MPC offers numerous ways to contribute to the development and enhancement of this public good.

MPC hosts a suite of census and survey data projects -- all accessed at ipums.org. The hallmark of these projects is the integration of discrete datasets into a single consistently coded and documented series that enables comparative analyses over time or space. The projects share common methods and infrastructure while each has its unique challenges and timelines of deliverables. The environment is highly collaborative, and you will work closely with research scientists, data analysts, graduate research assistants, and software developers.

The Center seeks research scientists to join the diverse group of researchers and technical staff supporting and improving the world's best dissemination systems for population and health data. We are hiring research scientists on the IPUMS-International census data project and the survey data projects IPUMS-CPS and IPUMS-Time Use. We are also seeking a research scientist to join the IPUMS-USA leadership team who is enthusiastic about IPUMS and interested in shaping the next phase of this flagship project.

Responsibilities

You will potentially be involved in all stages of data and metadata production, including the web dissemination system and research dissemination. The range of work includes harmonizing codes across datasets, resolving comparability issues, coding and documenting complex variables, exploring data quality, testing website functionality, adapting existing methods and tools to new purposes, and developing new approaches to address novel situations. Research scientists may be required to supervise graduate assistants, data analysts, or other research scientists. We are constantly pushing the boundaries of data processing and dissemination methods, and we are looking for people to approach problems with initiative and creativity.

The IPUMS-USA research scientist will serve as a project manager. This will include supervising graduate assistants and data analysts and may also include supervising other research scientists. This position will play a role in the scientific direction of the IPUMS-USA project, working closely with Principal Investigators, other project managers, and information technology professionals to implement planned activities and to lead new initiatives.

Research scientists represent MPC and their data projects on campus and at national and international conferences. These activities may include presenting research findings at workshops and conferences; publishing scholarly articles, book chapters, reports, and other research results; and conducting trainings through workshops and colloquia.

MPC provides opportunities for staff to pursue their own research interests and expects research scientists to participate intellectually in the life of the center with faculty, other researchers, and graduate student members. Research scientists at MPC may contribute to development of new research grant proposals or obtain independent research funding.

Qualifications

Required: Ph.D. (by time of appointment) in a population-related field (e.g. economics, geography, history, public health or sociology) and at least one year of research experience. Excellent computer skills and experience with a major statistical package (SPSS, STATA, SAS or R). Research experience with census or survey microdata, resulting in report, paper or publication. Strong written, verbal and interpersonal communication skills.

Additional selection criteria include: Experience using IPUMS data, particularly those specified above (International, CPS, USA or Time Use). Experience working as a member of a research team. Demonstrated ability to learn new information technology as required. Familiarity with a programming language and/or Unix. In addition, for the IPUMS-USA position, selection criteria include: An active record of scholarship using IPUMS data. Supervisory experience and/or experience leading a team.

Positions for B.A./B.S. and M.A./M.S level researchers are also open.
For B.A./B.S. see Job Opening ID 315162; for M.A./M.S. see Job Opening ID 315199.

Application Procedures (<http://humanresources.umn.edu/jobs>)

Please apply using the University of Minnesota's online employment system; search job opening ID 315207. You will have the opportunity to complete an online application. Click "apply" and follow the instructions. You must attach a cover letter, resume, and contact information for three professional references to your online application.

Your cover letter should explain your interest in our position opening and highlight your relevant skills and abilities. Please also include when you are available to start. The search committee will begin its review of applications Feb 1 and will continue reviewing until positions are filled.

Any offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of a background check. Our presumption is that prospective employees are eligible to work here. Criminal convictions do not automatically disqualify finalists from employment.

The University of Minnesota provides equal access to and opportunity in its program, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.



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