

INSTITUTE FOR  
SOCIAL RESEARCH & DATA INNOVATION



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Be a part of something BIG.

## POST DOCTORAL ASSOCIATE

JOB OPENING ID 339904

### JOB DESCRIPTION

The successful candidate for this position will support the use of Performance Monitoring for Action (PMA) data in the newly developed [PMA Data Hub](#) housed within the [Minnesota Population Center \(MPC\)](#). You will work closely with Dr. Kathryn Grace and Dr. Elizabeth Heger Boyle, MPC faculty members, to develop research, publications, and training materials using PMA data. The position is focused on producing outcomes using and applying PMA data for science and policy. You will explore new research approaches and methodologies across a wide range of disciplines to study fertility/reproductive health, migration and/or population-environment interactions in sub-Saharan Africa.

The PMA Data Hub sits within the MPC, which has more than 200 faculty, research staff, and student affiliates from two dozen academic units. Established in 2000 and funded by the National Institutes of Health, MPC cultivates innovative population research by providing a stimulating environment for interdisciplinary exchange, a growing population training program, and research support services designed to develop and nurture promising areas of new population research. Affiliates of the MPC benefit from co-location with the renowned [IPUMS](#) data infrastructure projects, the University of Minnesota's [Life Course Center](#), and the [Minnesota Research Data Center](#) (which is part of the Federal Statistical Research Data Center Network).

Diversity and inclusion are core values of our organization. We aspire to create a team that represents the diversity of our city, our region, and our world, and to create a space that encourages and embraces inclusiveness, equal opportunity, and respect. We strongly encourage women and members of under-represented groups to apply. This position is H1-B (or J-1) eligible and we are willing to provide visa sponsorship if needed.

**This 100% appointment has an annual starting salary of \$53,000+, depending on experience, and 20% related, independent research time related to reproductive health or related field. The candidate would ideally begin during the summer of 2021 with the initial appointment through June 20, 2022, with continuation up to two more years based on performance and funding.**

### RESPONSIBILITIES

The position has two primary areas of focus: research using PMA data and generating research

oriented content for the PMA Data Hub blog. For the research aspect of the position, you will carry out substantive research in collaboration with Drs. Grace and Boyle and other project collaborators, related to the project aims and data. You will be expected to present this research at academic conferences and submit it for publication in peer-reviewed journals. You may also be asked to supervise graduate and undergraduate students, contribute to the development of training materials, and co-lead trainings at national or international conferences.

The blog demonstrates applications of PMA data using R and uses [tidyverse](#) packages and common spatial analysis and data visualization packages. In collaboration with other members of the PMA Data Hub and under the guidance of Dr. Grace, you will develop and explain R code that helps users to do a range of things including extracting, analyzing, and developing maps and graphics.

## QUALIFICATIONS

### Required Qualifications

- doctoral degree in sociology, demography, geography, public health, economics, or related field
- strong quantitative analysis skills, minimum 3 years of programming experience with R, Python or Stata.
- passion for and experience in advancing science and policy through quantitative analysis
- proficient English skills for academic writing
- interest in fostering an inclusive environment and appreciative of differences in the workplace

### Preferred Qualifications

- substantive knowledge of/experience with demographic research in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in topics related to women's health and development
- experience using longitudinal and/or spatial data
- familiarity with Git / GitHub
- familiarity with RMarkdown and related R packages (e.g. Blogdown, Distill)
- Strong knowledge of tidyverse packages and spatial analysis / data visualization packages

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Please apply directly using the University of Minnesota's online employment system at the following link: [MPC Post Doc](#). Or search job opening ID 339904 on the U of MN's job search homepage: [humanresources.umn.edu/jobs](https://humanresources.umn.edu/jobs). Application requirements include a recent publication or research paper, resume, and a cover letter describing your interest and qualifications. (Please highlight your technical/statistical programming and data management skills in your cover letter). Questions concerning the application process may be addressed to Rob Strnad, Operations Coordinator, at [isrds-jobs@umn.edu](mailto:isrds-jobs@umn.edu).

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.