

Postdoctoral Scholar Employee - Critical Minerals - Social
Science Matrix
University of California Berkeley

Direct Link: <https://www.AcademicKeys.com/r?job=246806>

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Posted Oct. 10, 2024, set to expire Dec. 2, 2024

Job Title	Postdoctoral Scholar Employee - Critical Minerals - Social Science Matrix
Department	Climate Futures Lab
Institution	University of California Berkeley Berkeley, California
Date Posted	Oct. 10, 2024
Application Deadline	12/02/2024
Position Start Date	Available immediately
Job Categories	Post-Doc
Academic Field(s)	Geology - GIS Geology/Geosciences - General Environmental Sciences/Ecology/Forestry
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Job Description

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Position overview

Position title: Postdoctoral Employee

Salary range: The UC postdoc salary scales set the minimum pay determined by experience level at

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appointment. See the following table(s) for the current salary scale(s) for this position: [https://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/_files/2024-25/oct-2024-scales/t23.pdf]. A reasonable estimate for this position is \$66,737 - \$74,425 .

Percent time: 100%

Anticipated start: January 14, 2025

Position duration: This is a 2.0 year position with a possibility of an extension depending on funding.

Application Window

Open date: October 8, 2024

Next review date: Wednesday, Oct 30, 2024 at 11:59pm (Pacific Time)

Apply by this date to ensure full consideration by the committee.

Final date: Monday, Dec 2, 2024 at 11:59pm (Pacific Time)

Applications will continue to be accepted until this date, but those received after the review date will only be considered if the position has not yet been filled.

Position description

The Climate Futures Lab based in the Energy & Resources Group and the Department of Environmental Science, Policy & Management at UC Berkeley seeks a postdoctoral research fellow to work on a project about energy transitions and water justice, with a focus on the socio-ecological dimensions of critical mineral development in the Great Basin region of the United States (E. California, Nevada and Western Utah). The Great Basin is emblematic of the tension between urgent efforts to transition to low-carbon energy colliding with community concerns regarding the potential impacts of this transition on water resources and rural livelihoods, ecosystems, and Indigenous rights.

This project examines the implications of critical mineral mining for water equity in the arid Great Basin. In particular, it will shed light on three emerging dynamics that remain understudied: 1) growing investment in Direct Lithium Extraction (DLE) technologies, 2) interlocking federal and state-level policy transitions, and 3) varied responses from affected communities. The project involves a regional geospatial analysis, seven place-based case studies, and collaborations with community and Tribal partners. Engaging communities directly through workshops and tribal forums, the project will strengthen networks and foster diverse participation in the pursuit of equitable and just critical mineral supply chains. By disseminating results broadly through online interactive tools, policy-briefs, and op-

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eds, it will distill key insights that will enhance public understanding and support policy improvements associated with the water equity implications of critical mineral mining.

The position is funded by a grant from the Sloan Foundation and will be overseen by Dr. Meg Mills-Novoa (PI) at UCB and Dr. Sophia Borgias (Co-PI) at Boise State University.

Responsibilities

- Conduct extensive fieldwork in the Great Basin, traveling to case study sites in Esmeralda, Nye, and Eureka counties in Nevada to visit project sites, conduct interviews, and attend meetings and events
- Work closely with PI and Co-PI, as well as graduate research assistants
- Mentor and oversee graduate and undergraduate research assistants
- Facilitate community engagement through meetings with advisory committee, workshops in case study sites, and support for partners in organizing Tribal Forums
- Utilize NVivo Qualitative Analysis Software to analyze interview data and regulatory documents and synthesize key findings
- Build interactive regional map and case study StoryMap narratives about critical mineral mining, water, and community responses using ESRI tools
- Lead and/or assist with writing peer-reviewed journal articles, policy-briefs, and outreach materials
- Present research findings at local meetings & national conferences

Logistics

Fellows will have access to desk space and meeting rooms in Giannini Hall on the University of California, Berkeley's campus. Applicants should be aware that a minimum of two months of fieldwork in the Great Basin will be necessary each year. In addition to salary, the grant covers travel expenses for fieldwork and attending conferences.

Labor Contract: <https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/labor/bargaining-units/px/contract.html>

Qualifications

Basic qualifications (required at time of application)

PhD or equivalent international degree or enrolled in an PhD or equivalent international degree program.

Additional qualifications (required at time of start)

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- PhD or equivalent international degree by start date
- No more than 3 years post-PhD research experience

Preferred qualifications

- Training in Geography, Environmental Studies, Political Ecology, Environmental Policy, Environmental Sociology/Anthropology or other environmental social science
- Expertise in water, environment, energy, and/or climate
- Strong qualitative research skills, with experience conducting interviews, participant observation, thematic analysis, and participatory workshops
- Demonstrated experience working with GIS, ESRI ArcOnline, and Story Maps
- Demonstrated experience with community-engaged research and/or collaborations with Tribal partners
- Demonstrated experience in managing projects independently, meeting project timelines, managing stakeholder relationships, and seeking out other expertise where necessary
- Ability to communicate complex concepts to audiences in other fields and/or non-technical audiences
- Proficiency in qualitative research methods
- Proficiency in GIS
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English
- Ability to work both independently and in a team environment
- Has authored at least one peer-reviewed manuscript

Application Requirements

Document requirements

- Curriculum Vitae - Your most recently updated C.V.
- Cover Letter - Cover Letter stating how experiences reflect the minimum and preferred qualifications of this position and how this position would contribute to broader career goals.
- Statement on Contributions to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging - Statement on your contributions to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in research, teaching, and service, including information about your record of activities to date, and plans for contributing if hired at UC Berkeley. [More Information and guidelines.](#)
- Writing Sample - For example, a recent publication or dissertation chapter. Maximum of 10,000 words.



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Reference requirements

- 3-6 required (contact information only)

Apply link: <https://aprecruit.berkeley.edu/JPF04616>

Help contact: rpolk@berkeley.edu

About UC Berkeley

UC Berkeley is committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. The excellence of the institution requires an environment in which the diverse community of faculty, students, and staff are welcome and included. Successful candidates will demonstrate knowledge and skill related to ensuring equity and inclusion in the activities of their academic position (e.g., teaching, research, and service, as applicable).

The University of California, Berkeley is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, or protected veteran status.

Please refer to the [University of California's Affirmative Action Policy](#) and the [University of California's Anti-Discrimination Policy](#).

In searches when letters of reference are required all letters will be treated as confidential per University of California policy and California state law. Please refer potential referees, including when letters are provided via a third party (i.e., dossier service or career center), to the [UC Berkeley statement of confidentiality](#) prior to submitting their letter.

As a University employee, you will be required to comply with all applicable University policies and/or collective bargaining agreements, as may be amended from time to time. Federal, state, or local government directives may impose additional requirements.

Job location

Berkeley, CA



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Contact Information

Please reference Academickeys in your cover letter when applying for or inquiring about this job announcement.

Contact

N/A

University of California Berkeley

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