Postdoctoral Scholar Position at Oregon State University School of Public Policy

The postdoctoral scholar will conduct interdisciplinary research in collaboration and mentorship with the School of Public Policy to advance understanding of coastal ocean acidification (OA) impacts and the adaptive capacity strategies of U.S. west coast communities. Specifically, the scholar will participate on a project that brings together an interdisciplinary understanding of the oceanographic conditions that create stress, the biological impacts of this stress on coastal species, the subsequent effects on human communities that rely on these coastal species, and policy implications associated with changing environments and adaptation needs.

The scholar will be employed by Oregon State University, under direct supervision of Dr. Ana Spalding; but will be part of an interdisciplinary collaborative research team working with Dr. Ana Spalding and Dr. Erika Wolters (Oregon State University), Dr. Tessa Hill (UC Davis), Dr. Arielle Levine (San Diego State University), and Dr. Lida Teneva (California Ocean Science Trust, OST). The position is based in Corvallis, OR, but with the option to base out of San Diego, CA (other locations may be considered under certain circumstances). The position is renewable annually, for a maximum of 2 years, dependent on performance and continued funding availability and is at the discretion of the PIs and the OSU Office of Postdoctoral Programs.

Given the broad, interdisciplinary nature of the project, numerous research opportunities exist within the scope of the project. Project goals include:

- Investigating the adaptive capacity strategies employed by human coastal communities to adapt to OA and environmental change.
- Reviewing and evaluating existing public policies that facilitate or inhibit adaptive capacity to OA by coastal communities.
- Understanding the biophysical drivers of OA along the U.S. West Coast and its impacts on ecologically and culturally important species.
- Using geospatial data on oceanographic conditions to evaluate the current and expected impacts of OA on resource-dependent coastal communities.
- Including a diverse array of end users in this work, including (but not limited to) state-level managers and policy entities, tribal governments, small-holder shellfish operations, and coastal fishing operators.

Responsibilities will include:

- Collecting social science data to assess community perceptions of environmental change and adaptive capacity to these changes, through qualitative interviews.
- Conducting social science data analysis through interview coding analysis and interpretation of results.
- Conducting policy analyses to create linkages between the adaptive strategies employed by coastal communities and the policies in place that support or inhibit these strategies. These analyses will be contextualized within the spatial patterns of geophysical stress observed along the U.S. west coast.
• Using geospatial analyses to identify where regions that are geophysically vulnerable to OA overlap with regions that are socially, economically, or culturally vulnerable to OA.

• Conceptualizing, writing, and publishing peer-reviewed work as well as presenting finding at institutional and scientific meetings.

• Providing written and verbal status updates to stakeholders on assigned areas of responsibility.

• With support from OST, playing a supporting role for the whole research team in all-hands meetings and with project Advisory Board.

• Additionally, oversee graduate student involvement in different aspects of the project. (Postdoc will have the opportunity to co-advise at least one graduate student through their Master’s project).

**Duties**

• 30% - Conduct research under PI mentorship using existing data and collecting primary information through interview processes (might be supported by graduate students in which case overseeing their work would be part of this task).

• 35% - Analyze data and interpret results under supervision of PI; compile information and results into meaningful formats to ensure content is appropriately represented; maintain records and data analysis information.

• 20% - Prepare written results into publishable format, as requested by PI; provide written summaries of results for reports.

• 15% - Participate in professional development activities.

**Professional development**

Attendance to at least one scientific or professional conference, where information about current research will be shared. Participation at institutional and stakeholder meetings. Mentoring graduate students.

**Minimum/ Required qualifications**

Recent PhD in public policy, social science, marine science or related field. The ideal candidate will have experience with topics of adaptive capacity, coastal oceanography, social science, and/or environmental/coastal policy – with a strong interest in working across the boundaries of these fields to produce interdisciplinary work.

**Desired qualifications**

Given the interdisciplinary nature of the work, we ask that candidates have at least 2 of the following (one natural/physical and one social):

- Experience with social science research methods, primarily qualitative methods (or willingness to learn, with demonstrated fast learning skills for social research).
- Experience conducting policy analysis.
Experience working with GIS and/or geospatial data (or willingness to learn).
Experience with statistical software, preferably coding in R (or willingness to learn geophysical oceanographic models currently run in R).
Experience working with large datasets.
Experience mentoring university-level students and/or teaching experience at the university level (or experience as a teaching assistant).
Experience building novel research collaborations and working collaboratively with academic and non-academic partners.
Project management experience on collaborative work with numerous goals, PIs, and project participants.

Position available
- Start date is negotiable, as early as September 15, 2021.
- U.S. citizens and residents will be prioritized.
- Stipend and benefits conform with postdoctoral scholar standards at Oregon State University. More information about postdoctoral scholar appointments at Oregon State can be found at http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/postdocs.

Application
- Position will remain open until filled. Review of applications will begin on or after May 20th, 2021.
- Applicants must send the following documents in a single PDF file to Ana Spalding: ana.spalding@oregonstate.edu:
  - A detailed CV
  - A one-page cover letter describing your background and how you fit the advertised position
  - Contact information for two references
  - The subject line of your email should contain the following text: “Post-doctoral scholar in Adaptive Capacity (your last name).”
- Please note that only candidates that meet the required skills and expertise will be contacted.