Area of Research:

Monica Alexander is recruiting a postdoctoral fellow to join her research group at the University of Toronto. The position is supported by both the University of Toronto and the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR). It is a unique opportunity to contribute to research in demographic methods, collaborating with researchers at both Toronto and MPIDR. The fellowship is for a total of two years, with one year spent in Toronto and one year spent as a visiting research scientist at MPIDR (in Rostock, Germany) within the Lab of Digital and Computational Demography.

The Bayesian Demography Lab brings together researchers from demography, statistics, sociology, and public health, to work on projects related to statistical demography and the study of demographic inequalities. Current projects are wide ranging and include: improving demographic estimation in areas such as mortality, migration, and abortion prevalence; investigating the use of social media data in demographic research; and substantive areas such as the opioid epidemic and health of migrants.

Description of duties:

The successful applicant is expected to:

1. Contribute to ongoing projects of the Bayesian Demography Lab as well as help develop and shape future ones, also as collaborative efforts with scientists at MPIDR.
2. Contribute to a project on reproducibility. Ideal projects would broadly aim to assess reproducibility in demographic estimation; how it has varied across time, geography, and fields of study; current best practices; and implications for the future. The research agenda and objectives will depend on the successful applicant, but example aims include: 1) assessing the reproducibility of historical data and results, extracting data and building open-access databases using OCR and other text methods; 2) assessing the transparency and reproducibility of current research practices, how they compare to other fields and how they could be improved; and 3) investigating reproducibility and other open-science-related issues in new data sources such as social media data.

The successful applicant will also have teaching opportunities within the Department of Statistical Sciences at the University of Toronto, and mentoring of PhD and other students within the Bayesian Demography Lab.
Salary:

In the range of $65,000-$75,000, depending on experience.

Required qualifications:

The successful candidate must have a PhD or anticipate having completed their PhD within six months of the start date and is expected to have a profile along the lines of one of the following:

1. A demographer with strong quantitative skills who is interested in questions of demographic modeling, estimation, and reproducibility.
2. An applied statistician with a strong interest and expertise in questions related to demographic outcomes.
3. A computational social scientist interested in working on questions central to demographic research.

Application instructions:

All individuals interested in this position must submit the following:

1. Curriculum Vitae
2. Cover letter
3. Research Statement (Max 2 pages)
   Briefly describe your research accomplishments, as well as ongoing and future research plans. Please also describe your technical skills, areas of expertise, as well as the type of advanced training that you would like to receive as a postdoctoral fellow.
4. Names and contact information for 3 academic references (these will only be contacted for short-listed applicants)
5. One or two writing samples or publications
6. Links to sample statistical code, if relevant (e.g. a GitHub repository)

Materials should be submitted to Monica Alexander (monica.alexander@utoronto.ca) by the closing date.

Closing date: March 31, 2022

Supervisor: Monica Alexander

Expected start date: No later than September 2022

Term: Two years

FTE: Full time

The normal hours of work are 40 hours per week for a full-time postdoctoral fellow (pro-rated for those holding a partial appointment) recognizing that the needs of the employee’s research and training and the needs of the supervisor’s research program may require flexibility in the performance of the employee’s duties and hours of work.
Employment as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto is covered by the terms of the CUPE 3902 Unit 5 Collective Agreement.

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The University of Toronto is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from racialized persons / persons of colour, women, Indigenous / Aboriginal People of North America, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ persons, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas.