

Postdoc in Organic Agriculture Knowledge Network Analysis

Position Description

The Department of Entomology and the Organic Agriculture Institute (OAI) at the University of California invites applicants for a full-time post-doctoral scholar to conduct applied research under the mentorship of Dr. Houston Wilson at the UC Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Parlier, CA. The position will be for a one-year residence with possible second year renewal depending on funding. The position will begin in spring 2022, or as soon as possible after that time. Salary ranges from \$54,540 to \$65,292 annually depending on experience.

This postdoctoral scholar position will be part of a USDA-funded project titled “Collaborative Knowledge Networks for Planning Organic Agriculture Research and Extension in California” and a CDFA-funded project titled “Life Cycle Assessment of Environmental Impacts and Tradeoffs for Certified Organic Practices in Key Specialty Crops”. These projects will be conducted in partnership with UC Riverside, UC Davis, the UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program and the UC Organic Agriculture Institute.

The purpose of this postdoctoral scholar position is to help carry out work associated with these two separate but related projects to characterize current organic agriculture knowledge networks, production practices and key challenges across California, and then use that information to identify opportunities for targeted research and extension support. The final candidate will primarily help design, implement and analyze a series of qualitative and quantitative surveys of organic agriculture growers, consultants, certifiers and other stakeholders to determine (i) knowledge networks, (ii) research and extension needs and priorities, and (iii) key differences in technical details of production practices between various types of organic farming systems.

The postdoctoral scholar will be a member of Dr. Houston Wilson’s laboratory (<http://treecrops.ucr.edu/>) based at the UC Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center (<http://kare.ucanr.edu/>) in Parlier, CA. Dr. Wilson is Director of the UC Organic Agriculture Institute (<http://organic.ucanr.edu>) and this postdoc opportunity is focused on efforts associated with the UC OAI. The postdoc will have opportunities to participate in other network science projects on sustainable agriculture and pest management.

Qualifications

Applicants should be recent recipients of a doctoral degree, with demonstrated interest and publication ability in computational social science, network science, and the programming and analysis of quantitative online and in-person surveys and interviews. They should be experts in statistical and network analysis (including statistical models of networks such as exponential random graph models, multilevel networks, and stochastic actor-oriented models) in R and other appropriate software, including programming of online surveys in Qualtrics or other survey software. The academic record must have demonstrated capacity to work independently and lead the development and publication of research results. Experience working with orchard or other crop production systems, prior coursework on agronomic details of crop production systems, and/or experience communicating with growers about technical details of their production systems is strongly preferred. Interest in organic agriculture, cooperative extension, knowledge networks and/or life-cycle analysis is preferred but not required. The position is open with respect to academic discipline, and could include computer science, network science, decision theory, economics, political science, sociology, or other appropriate social science training.

Application Process

Please notify Dr. Houston Wilson (houston.wilson@ucr.edu) as soon as possible if you intend to apply, and send full applications electronically to houston.wilson@ucr.edu by February 15, 2022. Applications received by this date will be given first consideration, although we will continue to accept applications after that date. Applications should include (1) a CV, (2) letter describing research interests and background as applied to this project, (3) examples of any relevant publications, and (4) contact information for three references. Top candidates will be interviewed by Zoom or phone with possibility of a campus visit, and asked to supply letters of reference. For more information about this position, please contact Dr. Houston Wilson, Asst. Cooperative Extension Specialist, Department of Entomology, at Houston.wilson@ucr.edu.

UC Riverside Notifications

UCR is a world-class research university with an exceptionally diverse undergraduate student body. Its mission is explicitly linked to providing routes to educational success for underrepresented and first-generation college students. A commitment to this mission is a preferred qualification.

The University of California 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, age, disability, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

University of California COVID-19 Vaccination Program Policy: As a condition of employment, you will be required to comply with the University of California SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program Policy. All Covered Individuals under the policy must provide proof of Full Vaccination or, if applicable, submit a request for Exception (based on Medical Exemption, Disability, and/or Religious Objection) or Deferral (based on pregnancy) no later than the applicable deadline. For new University of California employees, the applicable deadline is eight weeks after their first date of employment.