Postdoctoral Scholar in Food Systems, Technology, & Sustainability Science

Applications due August 31: https://bit.ly/axilabjobs

We invite applications for a **postdoctoral scholar** to work on a collaborative research effort between Dr. Jennifer Jo Thompson at the University of Georgia, Dr. Meredith Niles at The University of Vermont, and Dr. Ankita Raturi at Purdue University. This position involves developing interdisciplinary knowledge and skills related to the practical, sociocultural, and policy-level barriers to cover crop adoption. It is part of a USDA-funded, multi-state project that aims to enhance water and food security through improved adoption and management of cover crops nationally. This "science in society"-oriented project will involve characterizing, mapping, and analyzing the information ecosystem of a large-scale, transdisciplinary sustainable agriculture research collaboration using mixed social science methods, including participant observation, qualitative interviewing, social network analysis, farmer survey data analysis, GIS mapping and other quantitative visualizations. The postdoctoral scholar will be expected to submit several publications reflecting the scope of this research. Work will primarily focus on the USDA-funded project (60% effort), but also provide research support (40% effort) for related Agricultural Informatics Lab projects (e.g., Informatics for Community Food Resilience). This position also includes opportunities to travel to scholarly conferences and participation in grant writing for future funding.

Required Experience:

- PhD in a relevant field where the listed skills and experience are demonstrated.
- 2+ years of experience with mixed-methods social science research:
    - Ability to collect and analyze qualitative data (e.g., Atlas.ti, NVIVO, or QDAminer).
    - Ability to analyze quantitative survey data, including social network data, using statistical analyses and network analysis.
    - Familiarity with programming (e.g., R, python, STATA) oriented toward social science applications.
- Publication record, evidenced by peer-reviewed publications.
- Demonstrated complex project management with tools such as: virtual whiteboards (e.g., Miro), project management tools (e.g., Trello), and data management tools (e.g., Airtable).

Preferred Experience:

- 1-2 years of relevant research experience in HCI (Human Computer Interaction), CSCW (Computer Supported Collaborative Work), or related areas of informatics.
- 1-2 years of experience with Q-methodology, and Science & Technology Studies (STS) theories and methods.
- 1-2 years of experience with inter/transdisciplinary research, team science, or other forms of collaborative work.
- 1+ years experience working at the intersection of agriculture and informatics.
- Familiarity with using GIS applications for data visualization and basic exploration and analysis.
- An interest in sustainable agriculture and/or sustainability science.

- Demonstrated capacity for communication of research findings among diverse audiences including farmers, non-profits, policymakers, developers and/or funders.

Logistics:

- **Duration:** The initial appointment is for a minimum of **one or two years**, based on your preference, with the possibility of extension. Reappointment will be based on performance review and availability of funding
- **Location:** The primary location of work will be **West Lafayette, Indiana** (at the Agricultural Informatics Lab at Purdue University), though a significant portion of the work will be conducted remotely as the broader research collaborative is distributed across the continental U.S.

Contact: Contact Dr. Ankita Raturi (ankita@purdue.edu) for additional details and to express interest. We look forward to working with you!

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The **Agricultural Informatics Lab** conducts design research and technology development to improve resilience in food and agricultural systems. We build a range of products, from farmer-facing decision support tools and community-oriented local food system toolkits, to developer-facing APIs that serve a range of agricultural data. We conduct human-centered design research, translate our findings into usable and useful software prototypes, think critically about the role of technology in local and global food systems, and build real tools for real users. Each of our projects includes: a partnership with domain experts and communities (e.g., agronomy researchers, farmers, food hub coordinators), a mix of undergraduate students, graduate students, senior personnel, and interdisciplinary faculty. All our work is grounded in community needs and desires and results in open source projects.

The **Social Sustainability of Agri-Food Systems Lab** applies expertise in qualitative and mixed-methods social science to develop knowledge about the relationships between human/environmental health, social justice, agroecology, and food systems. As social scientists embedded in the College of Ag & Environmental Sciences at the University of Georgia, our inter-/transdisciplinary work focuses on the social sustainability of agriculture and food systems -- from collaborations aimed at developing knowledge and outreach to support farmers in adopting conservation agricultural practices (i.e., cover cropping) to those focused on community food systems and food justice (i.e., produce prescription programs, farm to school).

The **Niles Lab** At the University of Vermont focuses on food systems, environment and health from a behavior and policy perspective. The lab utilizes mixed methods approaches, particularly focused on quantitative social science and data science, including the integration of multiple kinds of datasets. The students and postdoctorates within the lab are inter and transdisciplinary scholars, working in fields including food systems, nutrition, plant and soil science, ecology, data science, and complex systems. The lab is funded through a number of projects from the US Department of Agriculture, National Science Foundation and varying foundations, all focused on sustainable food security and systems in a changing environment and complex world.