

Postdoctoral Fellowship – TRANSFORM: Accelerating sustainability entrepreneurship experiments in local spaces

We seek a highly motivated postdoctoral fellow to help **lead research** on small business sustainability experiments and the governance of transitions toward sustainability in urban spaces.

Dr. Sarah Burch (University of Waterloo) is leading an international partnership project (TRANSFORM) that connects hubs of research and practice in Canada, Australia, the USA, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands. TRANSFORM will explore the role of small businesses in triggering and accelerating sustainability transitions. We are working to build capacity for transformation in the small business community, while investigating and supporting governance processes that enable these transformations.

In close collaboration with colleagues in each hub, the successful candidate will help to lead a team that will:

1. Build an interactive database of small business sustainability experiments, practices, and business models, targeting public, private sector, and scholarly users.
2. Carry out qualitative fieldwork in a number of case study communities, including document analysis and key informant interviews.
3. Coordinate the activities of PhD and Master's-level students, including research design, publications and conference presentations.
4. Convene a wider conversation with scholarly and practitioner communities about strategies for assessing and accelerating sustainability transitions.

The successful candidate will be responsible for leading these activities, including managing a small team of Master's and PhD students and collaborating with a broader advisory group. They will be based at the University of Waterloo, in the Sustainability Policy Research and Urban Transformation (SPROUT) Lab. The candidate will have significant opportunities to develop networks and publish in the fields of sustainability transitions and environmental governance.

The anticipated start date for this position will be **January 1st, 2018**.

Anticipated salary is \$50,500/annum (plus benefits and reasonable research/dissemination expenses). The position is for a **2-year term**. Travel opportunities exist in order to carry out fieldwork and collaborate with colleagues within Canada, the U.S., Western Europe, and Australia.

Qualifications:

- Ph.D. degree, field open, although candidate must have strong skills in empirical social scientific research related to the environment, in particular interview-based research and qualitative data analysis.
- Extensive knowledge in some combination of: governance, sustainability, transformations/transitions, entrepreneurship, climate change mitigation and adaptation, comparative politics, and participatory processes.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills; fluency in English required.
- Excellent organizational skills, including the demonstrated capacity to manage a team.
- Experience with interdisciplinary environmental research (e.g., incorporating philosophy, sociology, political science) or transdisciplinary research (e.g., working with diverse stakeholders to develop research outcomes of local relevance) would be valuable.
- Ability to self-motivate and to work semi-independently on a research project through to publication (evidenced in letters of reference and by publication record).
- Ability to commit to the project for a period of at least 2 years.

To apply:

Please send the following materials to Dr. Sarah Burch (sburch@uwaterloo.ca) by **October 30th 2018**.

- A letter of interest outlining your experience and fit for the position
- Curriculum vitae
- Contact information for two academic referees
- Two recent publications that you feel are relevant to this position (ie methodologically, theoretically, etc)

For more information on the Faculty of Environment and the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Waterloo, see www.environment.uwaterloo.ca.

More information about Dr. Sarah Burch can be found here:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/geography-environmental-management/people-profiles/sarah-burch> or here: <https://www.cigionline.org/person/sarah-burch>

