Columbia University Provost's Postdoctoral Research Scientist/Scholar, School of Social Work

The Columbia University School of Social Work (CUSSW) is seeking a postdoctoral scholar with a PhD in economics, public policy, social work, sociology, or a related discipline to work with senior Social Policy faculty in conducting original research and scholarship on fragile families and child well-being. The goal of Columbia University Provost’s Postdoctoral Research Scientist/Scholar program is to enhance the recruitment of outstanding postdoctoral scholars from underrepresented groups to more closely reflect composition of the national pool of qualified candidates. The post-doc will work with CUSSW Social Policy faculty (Irwin Garfinkel, Ronald Mincy, Julien Teitler, and Jane Waldfogel) for up to three years on an original research agenda utilizing data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study (FF study). The FF Study follows a cohort of nearly 5,000 children born in large U.S. cities between 1998 and 2000 (roughly three-quarters of whom were born to unmarried parents). Third year funding is contingent on receipt of a supplemental grant that the post-doc will contribute to developing with senior Social Policy faculty.

The core FF Study was designed primarily to address four questions of great interest to researchers and policy makers: (1) What are the conditions and capabilities of unmarried parents, especially fathers?; (2) What is the nature of the relationships between unmarried parents?; (3) How do children born into these families fare?; and (4) How do policies and environmental conditions affect families and children? For more information on the study, visit: http://www.fragilefamilies.princeton.edu/about.asp

The program strongly encourages applications from promising scholars from historically underrepresented groups, including but not limited to: Blacks/African-Americans; Hispanics; Native Americans/Alaska Natives; and persons having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, or Samoa. Applicant must be a US citizen or permanent resident who will have completed his/her terminal degree not later than five years before the start of the fellowship. Individuals who received their terminal degrees from Columbia or who have been Columbia postdoctoral scholars are not eligible for this program.

All applicants must apply no later than December 15, 2012 online through the Columbia RAPS system (https://academicjobs.columbia.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=56890) and upload the following materials at the time of application:

- CV or resume
- three letters of recommendation
- statement describing research interests (no more than 5 pages)

Each application will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- The degree of fit of research interests
- How the postdoctoral training will help to further the postdoctoral scientist’s research trajectory
- Demonstrated record of work with quantitative data
- Strength of letters of support

We will interview selected candidates who have completed their applications at the annual APPAM conference in Baltimore, or at the annual CSWE conference in Washington DC on Nov. 9 or 10, or via phone.