

Call for applications - Research Assistant position (Nova Scotia)

Countering anti-2SLGBTQ+ Misinformation in Rural Canada: Investigating How Older Canadians Interact with the SOGI Movement in Alberta, British Columbia, and Nova Scotia

Countering anti-2SLGBTQ+ Misinformation in Rural Canada: Investigating How Older Canadians Interact with the SOGI Movement in Alberta, British Columbia, and Nova Scotia is a major, multi-site research project led conjointly by the Department of Political Science at Saint Mary's University and The Canadian Institute of Far-Right Studies (CIFRS). Its main aim is to uncover the mechanisms that drive the spread of misinformation affecting the 2SLGBTQ+ community in rural areas in Canada. The research will also identify strategies to strengthen local communities and to promote digital and civic literacy among seniors. The project is financially supported by the Government of Canada's Department of Canadian Heritage.

Deadline: April 29, 2024

Start date: May 05, 2024

This position is offered by SMU and may be taken up as either:

8 months part time

or

4 months full time

Responsibilities:

- Engage in data collection and fieldwork both online and in-person.
- Conduct interviews in rural areas (note that in some cases public transportation might not be available).
- Support the implementation of focus groups with residents of rural areas and stakeholders.
- Support senior researchers in both administrative (i.e., scheduling interviews) and research related tasks (i.e., record and transcription of interviews and focus groups).
- Conduct qualitative and quantitative data analysis to identify patterns and insights.
- Contribute to writing activities including research briefs, reports, and literature reviews.

- Complete all required training workshops including on ethics, security, researcher wellbeing, and research methods.
- Build and maintain relationships with community members and stakeholders to facilitate effective research.
- Manage the logistics of scheduling and conducting interviews and focus groups, including travel arrangements and material preparation.
- Ensure behavior in the field complies with ethical training.

Optional Opportunities:

- Collaborate on writing projects with CIFRS Fellows if interests align with ongoing projects.
- Participate in public dissemination of results such as public lectures, conference presentations, or opinion pieces.
- Attend monthly CIFRS meetings.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's or Master's degree in Political Science, Anthropology, Sociology, or related field. Advanced undergraduate students might be considered.
- Prior experience with and/or knowledge of research methodologies (interviews and focus groups).
- Strong interest in the mission of the project and familiarity with issues related to far-right movements and narratives, specifically anti-2SLGBTQ+ misinformation.
- High level of cultural sensitivity and adaptability to work effectively in rural community settings.
- Open-mindedness to listen to people with controversial political views.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a team environment.
- Ability to organize, synthesize and process information and prepare comprehensive reports.
- Demonstrated organizational and time management skills.
- Ability to drive to fieldwork sites is ideal but not required.
- Knowledge of quantitative and qualitative analysis software (e.g., NVivo, Atlas.ti, SPSS, R).
- Knowledge of Excel, Power Point, Word, and other office software.

Application Process:

Please submit the following documents by the deadline:

- Cover Letter outlining relevant experience and alignment with the project's mission.
- Contact information for two academic references.
- Curriculum Vitae

Applications should be sent to info@cifrs.org. **Please note that candidates need to be based on the province in which they will be conducting research. Please also indicate in your application if you are interested in the part-time or full-time position.**

Saint Mary's University and CIFRS are committed to equity, diversity and inclusion. We encourage applications from individuals of all backgrounds, especially those from marginalized communities.