

## SESYNC Postdoctoral Fellowship - Supply Chain Commitments

### Deadline:

Aug 28, 2017

The National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) invites applications from early career scholars for a two-year postdoctoral fellowship that begins in January 2018. The fellow will be in residence at SESYNC in Annapolis, MD as a full participant in SESYNC's Postdoctoral [Immersion Program](#) [1]. The selected individual will collaborate on a [SESYNC Pursuit](#) [2] focused on zero-deforestation commitments, commodity flows, and land use change in South America led by Dr. Rachael Garrett, Boston University and Dr. Kimberly Carlson, University of Hawaii. Travel funds are available for the fellow to visit with the Pursuit PIs and to attend scientific conferences.

This opportunity is open to applicants who have completed their PhD in a relevant field within the last two years (no later than December 15, 2017 and no earlier than January 15, 2015). Applicants are expected to propose ideas for a data synthesis or modeling project that contributes to our understanding of the effectiveness of zero-deforestation commitments in reducing the environmental impacts of agricultural expansion in South America using the novel social and ecological datasets assembled for the Pursuit (see below) and other sources. Preference will be given to projects that have the potential to advance understanding of socio-environmental systems and complement existing proposed work. The Fellow will conduct independent scholarship related to the project leading to one or more research papers.

The SESYNC Immersion Program is designed to advance the fellows' understanding of theories and methods foundational to research on socio-environmental systems and to advance their understanding of the science-policy nexus. Successful candidates will have made clear in their applications how progress on their proposed projects may benefit from participation in the Immersion Program and/or how the program aligns with their specific career objectives.

**Zero-deforestation Supply Chains Commitment Pursuit information:** Expansion of globally traded commodities is the leading cause of tropical forest loss. Recent campaigns by NGOs have incentivized major corporations to make commitments to exclude products associated with deforestation from their supply chains. To achieve these goals, companies are increasing supply chain transparency and traceability, sourcing certified products, and working directly with producers to change land use practices. Yet, the effects of such corporate policies on producer behavior and environmental outcomes remain unclear. If zero-deforestation commitments are limited in geographical and product scope or exclude certain types of forests, they may fail to achieve stated objectives. To address these gaps, an interdisciplinary SESYNC synthesis team led by Dr. Rachael Garrett (Boston University; [rgarr@bu.edu](mailto:rgarr@bu.edu) [3]) and Dr. Kimberly Carlson (University of Hawaii; [kimberly.carlson@hawaii.edu](mailto:kimberly.carlson@hawaii.edu) [4]) leverages datasets on the geospatial fingerprint of zero-deforestation commitments, company commodity flows, and land use change in South America to assess the potential impacts of zero-deforestation commitments on farmer behavior and land use change at a regional scale, as well as possible displacement of land use change worldwide. The

research involves data synthesis, modeling, and analysis to assess interactions between zero-deforestation commitments, public policies, and tropical land cover dynamics and identify enabling conditions to improve the likelihood that commitments will achieve stated goals. The work focuses primarily on soy in South America, a leading driver of tropical deforestation in the region.

Successful applicants will have a background in natural resource management, agricultural economics, ecology, or similar field with strong geo-spatial, statistical, and/or programming abilities. Excellent communication, writing, and organizational skills are needed. Those with experience in spatial simulation or computable general equilibrium software are especially welcome.

### **Applying is a two-stage process: a qualification step and a proposal submission step.**

To Qualify to Apply, submit a combined PDF of your C.V. and a detailed cover letter to our [online webform](#) [5]. The letter should: 1) “describe two or three pressing research questions related to how supply chain commitments influence land use and socio-environmental outcomes” (< 1/2 page) 2) detail the qualifications that make the candidate competitive for the postdoctoral project (< ½ page); and, 3) clarify how this project and an interdisciplinary fellowship will advance the candidate’s career trajectory (<1/2 page).

**Qualifying Applications may be submitted until 5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time on August 28, 2017; applicants will be informed within a week if they are invited to submit a full proposal and if so, will be given instructions. Applicants are invited to reach out to the Pursuit PIs for more details on the project.**

Invited full proposals (< 5 pages) are due September 15, 2017 at 5:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time.

Invited applicants that have not yet received their PhD are required to submit a letter from their graduate advisor or a committee member along with the full proposal. The letter should verify expectations for date of degree completion. Invited applicants will also need to arrange to have two letters of reference sent directly from referee to SESYCNC by the September 15 deadline.

### **Submission Instructions:**

[Click here to apply online.](#) [5]

*The University of Maryland (SESYNC) is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Minorities and Women Are Encouraged to Apply.*

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### **Source URL:**

<https://www.sesync.org/opportunities/fellowships-postdoctoral-fellowships/sesync-postdoctoral-fellowship-supply-chain-0>

### **Links**

[1] <https://www.sesync.org/for-you/educator/programs/immersion>

[2] <https://www.sesync.org/project/propose-a-pursuit/supply-chain-commitments>

[3] <mailto:rgarr@bu.edu>

[4] <mailto:kimberly.carlson@hawaii.edu>

[5] <https://www.sesync.org/forms/sesync-supply-chain-commitments-postdoctoral-fellowship>