JOB POSTING, POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW

Area of Research: Health and Social Policy, Public Policy

Project summaries:

A fundamental tenet of population health is that there is an association between socioeconomic status (SES) and the health of individuals, mediated through material deprivation and social deprivation, and by the degree of socio-economic inequality in the community as a whole. This health-deprivation gradient provides an important lens for assessing the impact of major health risks and public policy. This project will use that lens to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health policies to contain COVID on SES-related inequalities and health disparities. The resulting assessment will be provided to policymakers in a timely and relevant manner in order to inform an equitable policy response to this public health crisis.

The project team includes experts in health and socio-economic policy, health services research, epidemiology, public health, health disparities, econometrics and labour economics who will investigate policy arrangements and policy alternatives that can mitigate the cross-SES health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and of the containment measures used to mitigate that pandemic in Ontario, drawing on primary data collection, existing evidence, and the team’s sophisticated data analysis of health outcomes, SES and employment.

The objectives are to:

1. Synthesize evidence from the policy sciences (economics, political science, political sociology, etc) on the likely impacts of COVID-19 and containment strategies on health outcomes across SES strata;
2. Analyze health and socio-economic policy and system arrangements that bear on population health in Ontario, and relevant comparator jurisdictions, and the policy implications of the results of team modelling of the observed impacts of COVID and containment on health outcomes across SES strata using econometric models;
3. Create and employ a comprehensive knowledge translation strategy to communicate results of this work to support policymakers in a timely and dynamic fashion.

Description of duties:

The Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (IHPME) is seeking a Post-Doctoral Fellow who will take a leadership role in a set of health services and policy research projects that aim to provide evidence to support an effective and equitable response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a particular focus on economic and employment disparities.

The successful candidate will have advanced training in a policy-relevant discipline, and substantive expertise in the policy correlates of population health and health inequity. The research will involve...
literature reviews and primary data collection (qualitative and/or quantitative) to analyze policy and system arrangements and alternatives, as well as collaborative work with team members to analyze the policy implications of findings from descriptive analyses and more advanced modeling and simulation studies using health system administrative data and data from Statistics Canada.

S/he will report to the Principal Investigator, Geoff Anderson

The post is available immediately. It is full time on a 12-months fixed-term basis, and renewable for another 12 months based on mutual agreement.

Responsibilities include:

- Conducting literature and document reviews to synthesize various sources of policy-relevant evidence;
- Analysing policy arrangements in Ontario and conducting comparative health systems and policy research to identify policy alternatives, using qualitative and/or quantitative data collection and analysis techniques, as appropriate;
- Leading the drafting of methods and results section for journal submissions and project reports;
- Analyzing and summarizing findings and drafting reports and/or manuscripts and contributing to knowledge translation activities;
- Liaising with a national research team to ensure consistency in methodology;
- Supervising junior staff (e.g., work-study students);
- Presenting findings at relevant conferences.

Salary:

$55,000-65,000 per annum depending on candidate, skills and experience.

Please note that should the minimum rates stipulated in the collective agreement fall below the rates stated in this posting, the minimum rates stated in the collective agreement shall prevail.

Required qualifications:

Minimum Degree Required: Ph.D. obtained within 5 years from date of hiring

Preferred Qualifications:

The successful candidate must possess a PhD in a policy-relevant discipline. The successful candidate must have substantive expertise in the policy correlates of population health and health inequity, and methodological expertise and experience in analyzing and comparing policy arrangements and options. The candidate must have the ability to work independently and direct projects, while also working collaboratively with the PI and other research team members. Experience preparing manuscripts for submission to peer-reviewed journals is also required along with experience presenting findings at relevant conferences.
Application instructions:

All individuals interested in this position must submit a CV and two letters of references to Alexandru Titeu at alexandru.titeu@utoronto.ca by the closing date. Optional application documents include cover letter, dissertation abstract, writing sample/publications and research abstract.

Closing date:

Supervisor:  Professor Geoff Anderson, Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation

Expected start date: Immediately upon successful selection of an applicant

Term:

This is a one-year position, renewable for a second year subject to availability of funding and performance of the postdoc.

FTE:  Full time

The normal hours of work are 40 hours per week for a full-time postdoctoral fellow (pro-rated for those holding a partial appointment) recognizing that the needs of the employee, research and training and the needs of the supervisor, research program may require flexibility in the performance of the employee, duties and hours of work.

Employment as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto is covered by the terms of the CUPE 3902 Unit 5 Collective Agreement.

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The University of Toronto is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from racialized persons / persons of color, women, Indigenous / Aboriginal People of North America, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ persons, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas.