

Postdoctoral Fellow: Invasion biogeography/macroecology

Salary: \$53,000 plus benefits (2-year position)

Start date: Beginning of 2022

Location: University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Description:

The Spatial Ecology Lab at UMass, Amherst seeks a postdoctoral scientist interested in the biogeography and macroecology of invasive plant species for a two-year position. The successful applicant will design novel, spatial research on how invasion risk is shaped by climate change and how traits mediate the success and impacts of invasive species. Macroecological analyses would leverage an existing national-scale dataset of plant abundance from plot data to analyze patterns of invasion impacts in relation to species' abundances and traits. This work would analyze spatial patterns of functional homogenization and assess vulnerability to invasion impacts across species and communities, a top research priority of invasive species managers.

The position will be located on the campus of University of Massachusetts in Amherst, in the Pioneer Valley of western Massachusetts. This is a fantastic location, with a remarkable mix of college atmosphere (Smith, Mt Holyoke, Hampshire, and Amherst Colleges are also here), culture, and natural resources.

The postdoc will participate in the vibrant Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center (NE CASC) community (necasc.umass.edu) and will collaborate in stakeholder-driven research as a member of the Northeast Regional Invasive Species & Climate Change (RISCC) Management Network (riscnetwork.org). The RISCC Network aims to reduce the compounding effects of invasive species and climate change by synthesizing relevant science, communicating the needs of managers to researchers, building stronger scientist-manager communities, and conducting priority research. As part of RISCC, the postdoc will engage in actionable science and science communication that serves the network. The postdoc will also actively participate in a scientific working group supported by the USGS Powell Center, creating opportunities to lead and contribute to collaborative research projects and to interact with agency and academic scientists across multiple institutions.

Qualifications:

The applicant should have experience in spatial analysis or data science, ideally with a background in invasion ecology or conservation biology. A PhD must be defended prior to beginning the postdoc in a discipline related to ecology, environmental science,

geography, or resource management. Other important qualifications are a strong work ethic, creativity, excellent writing skills, interest in stakeholder engagement, and a track record of successful publications.

To be considered for this position, please send a cover letter outlining your research background and interests, including any experience with stakeholder engagement and communication; a curriculum vitae; and contact information for two professional references to Bethany Bradley (bbradley@eco.umass.edu). Review of applications begins December 1, 2021. Individuals who can add to the diversity of experience and knowledge in the Spatial Ecology Lab are strongly encouraged to apply. A statement of our core values can be found [here](#).