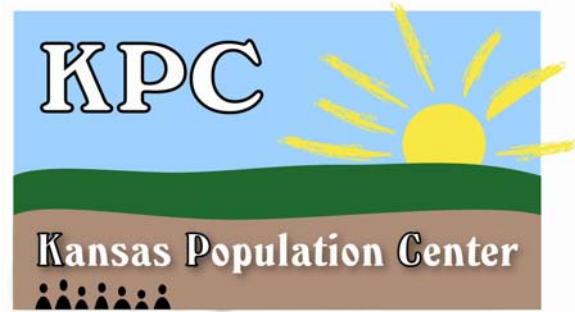


KPC student recruitment 2009-2010

The Kansas Population Center at Kansas State University invites applications for two doctoral student positions in sociology (details below). Applicants are required to send their materials (letter of application, CV, transcripts and contact information for two professional references) to Dr. Laszlo Kulcsar (202D Waters Hall, Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, 66506). Review of applications continues until the positions are filled.



1. Hyper-extraction, land use and demography

Background: The hyper-extractive economic system of Southwest Kansas sits atop the Ogallala Aquifer and survives and thrives by externalizing the costs of production onto society, the economy, and natural systems of the region. Working together in an integrated, cross-disciplinary team, students and faculty will collaboratively investigate a system-level theoretical approach linking land and water use patterns, economic trends and population dynamics to issues of sustainability. An integrated model will be developed that focuses on 1) accurately modeling the current hyper-extractive system, 2) forecasting the outcome of possible policy scenarios to transition the current system toward possible paths that are more sustainable for the social, economic and natural systems of the groundwater-based economies of the High Plains Aquifer.

About the position: This is a 3 year interdisciplinary project funded by the National Science Foundation. Students can start the program as early as Spring 2010. Funding (stipend + tuition) is guaranteed until the end of the 2011-2012 academic year (a typical PhD program at KSU is four years long). The student working on the grant is expected to write his or her dissertation on a topic related to the project. Background in social sciences (preferably sociology, geography, environmental studies, political science) is required, and solid research methods skills are necessary. Applicants should also demonstrate experience in demography.

2. Crops for fuel: farmers' decision making

Background: This project proposes to identify the driving factors behind farmers' land use decisions: (1) availability of water; (2) perceptions of sustainability with respect to both water and soil productivity; (3) loss in surface water quality created by removing land from government conservation programs; (4) presence and quality of social networks; and (5) government policies affecting land uses. The project integrates three data sources – satellite remote sensing, farmer surveys and in-depth farmer interviews, and proposes to test key hypotheses relating to the factors driving land use decisions.

About the position: This is a joint project with the University of Kansas and funded by the National Science Foundation's Epscor initiative. The position starts in the 2010-2011 academic year and funding (stipend + tuition) is guaranteed for four years. The student in this position will work with KSU faculty on the social aspects of the research project, thus social science background is preferred. Applicants should demonstrate strong research skills as well as some field experience.

Contact: kulcsar@ksu.edu