

Research Assistant Opportunity Casual Position

Transgender Mental Health & Transphobic Countertransference

Overview

This project is seeking a temporary, part-time Research Assistant (RA) for two research studies at Athabasca University (AU). The first project considers the effect of COVID-19 on Two Spirit, transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming (2TNG) Albertans' mental health through qualitative interviews and arts-based digital storytelling outputs. The second project aims to analyze the effect of transphobic countertransference on 2TNG adult's and youth's access to health care. Transphobic countertransference can be defined as the ways in which a clinician's unconscious prejudice can be felt, and potentially acted out, within various medical settings. The RA will assist the Principle Investigator (PI) with these projects through qualitative data analysis (of both interviews and arts-based outputs), literature reviews, knowledge mobilization, assisting with grant writing, and administrative support of the *Trans Lab for Qualitative Research*. The Trans Lab is an interdisciplinary research hub that supports the production of affirming, intersectional, and critical qualitative research at AU.

Qualifications & Experience

The successful candidate will:

- hold significant experience with qualitative data analysis (including the use of software such as MAXQDA or NVivo) and literature reviews.
- be nearing the completion of an undergraduate degree or undertaking a graduate degree. A number of disciplinary specializations will be considered, including but not limited to, Gender Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies, Indigenous Studies, Social Work, Political Science, and Sociology. Exceptions to this credentialing can be made in cases where the applicant can provide comparable educational, work, or lived experience and knowledge.
- have research interests and/or experience in any of the following: transgender studies, intersectionality, mental health, social determinants of health, psychology, race and racism, Indigenous and decolonial studies, disability, feminist research, community-based research, digital worlds, queer and feminist technologies, social justice, advocacy and activism.
- have research, work, service, or lived experience with 2TNG people and communities.
- hold some experience conducting or planning quantitative research studies.

Key Responsibilities

The primary job duties for the Research Assistant are (in order of priority):

- conduct qualitative analysis of interviews and arts-based outputs
- conduct literature reviews on transphobic countertransference and arts-based methodologies
- assist with knowledge mobilization initiatives
- assist with grant writing
- offer administrative support for the Trans Lab
- attend regular meetings with the PI
- general administrative duties
- complete other research-related tasks as needed

The RA will receive support from the PI in research methods and theories, publication and research communication, knowledge mobilization and dissemination, data management and analysis, research ethics and interdisciplinary research. The expected outcome will be the RA's increased expertise in data analysis and research design, along with a solid foundation in ethical considerations when working with marginalized populations.

Hours and compensation:

This position is comprised of 250 hours over a 10-month period with the potential for additional hours. The number of weekly hours will vary. Rate of pay commensurate with experience and collective agreement provisions. Start date is as soon as possible.

The position is based in Calgary Alberta but can be completely remotely. The successful candidate will work with, and directly report to, Dr. Tobias Wiggins at Athabasca University.

How to apply:

Qualified individuals are encouraged to submit their application by email to Dr. Wiggins at twiggins@athabascau.ca. Applications should include (as a single PDF file) a brief cover letter that summarizes your skills, interests, and experience; a current resume or curriculum vitae; and the contact information for 1-2 references.

Evaluation of applications will begin immediately and will continue until a suitable candidate is found. All applicants are thanked for their interest in this position; however, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

Athabasca University and the researchers are committed and seek to support equity in employment and research opportunities. We strongly encourage applications from Indigenous people, people of colour, people with disabilities, 2SLGBTQ+ people, women, and other historically marginalized groups. Applicants are welcome, but not required, to self-identify in their letter of application.

For more information on this opportunity, please contact Dr. Wiggins at the coordinates below. Applications will be accepted until March 27th 2024, or until a suitable candidate is found.

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