DOCTORAL STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS: “Co-Creating Capacities to Understand, Visualize and Mitigate Climate-Change Impact Cascades and Inequities in Central Mexico”

Background: In 2022, “Co-Creating Capacities to Understand, Visualize and Mitigate Climate-Change Impact Cascades and Inequities in Central Mexico” was awarded a $1.5M grant from the National Science Foundation Program Partnerships for International Research & Education (PIRE, Award # 2230723). It involves nine Clark faculty from International Development, Community & Environment (IDCE), Graduate School of Geography, and Becker School of Design & Technology (BSDT). Our partners in Mexico include faculty from the National Autonomous University of Mexico’s (UNAM) Laboratory for Sustainability Sciences (LANCIS), Institute of Atmospheric Sciences & Climate Change (ICAyCC), and Program for Climate Change Research (PINCC) – as well as the Mexico City government and local communities. The project co-creates and integrates four components: 1) a regional climate-change atlas using web-based GIS to map and spatially analyze climate, water, food/agriculture, ecosystem, health and livelihood conditions; 2) a system dynamics model (SDM) to represent interactions among these sectors, impact cascades (one sector’s impacts propagate through others), the unevenness of impacts across populations/landscapes, and the simulation of alternative futures; 3) an eXtended Reality (XR) platform that allows stakeholders to inhabit those futures virtually with the aim of charting sustainable, socially just, climate-resilient pathways; and 4) a research/practice-based suite of courses that Clark and UNAM students take together – including field research with local community partners. Interdisciplinary stakeholder co-creation is central to the work: cohorts of Clark students spend 6 months in the field living and working with community partners and UNAM peers. The project is a transformative team-based experience.

Who We Seek: Applicants should intend to pursue their doctorate within the Graduate School of Geography. The doctoral research interests and competencies of the applicant should have substantial overlap with those of the fellowship outlined above: the integration of GIS, SDM and decision making, with strong quantitative and analytical skills, and a passion for socially engaged research. Fluent Spanish speakers, including Latinx students for whom Spanish is a first language, as well as others with significant experience working in Spanish-speaking countries or communities (e.g., Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, Americorps*VISTA or Teach-for-America alumni).
OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS – Join a closely-knit interdisciplinary graduate student team to pursue your PhD in Geography. Be part of a social-technical enterprise that represents a new co-creation paradigm for sustainable development work. Build relationships with communities impacted by climate change by working alongside them to build collective capacity to understand and respond.

clarku.edu/departments/geography

PHD FELLOWSHIPS
The successful applicant will be accepted into the Geography PhD program. As a doctoral student in this program, you are guaranteed 100% tuition remission and stipends (TA or RA positions, $28,853 for AY23-24) for a minimum of your first four years in the program. In addition, this exciting fellowship will provide three-years of support for grant-related fieldwork, research expenses, and travel to/from Mexico.

APPLICATION PROCESS
Please consult the webpages below for more information on programs and the application process.

clarku.edu/departments/geography/graduate-programs/docotoral-programs/

DEADLINE
December 15, annually. This means that we should receive all of your application materials, including relevant exam scores and recommendation letters, by this date. This is a firm deadline and prospective applicants should begin to assemble their materials early enough to meet it. Application materials that arrive after December 15 are not guaranteed to receive full consideration.

For more on the research project and fellowship opportunities:
Prof. Abby Frazier (Afrazier@clarku.edu) or
Prof. Tim Downs (TDowns@clarku.edu).

Project publications to date with *student co-authors: