

Meg Wiessner – Sketch D: Querying Job Markets, Transnationally

Job Posting

Post-Doctoral Associate Position in Design, Infrastructure, and Politics – Concordia University – January 2020 (permanent link is expired, jobs posting details are copied below in blue)

What aspects of the posting most attracted you?

This post-doc feels like it was made for me, although whenever I feel that way I wonder if I'm projecting. But even trying to read between the lines I come away with very few qualms with this one. Interest match at intersection of several fields is spot on. Montreal appeals. 3 years would offer some stability and some time to build a community, perhaps even enough to eventually stay. But at the same time it's not a TT position where I'm really having to commit for decades; it feels like the best of both worlds.

“intersection of the social sciences or humanities and design” – Yes!

“historical and contemporary entanglements” Yes! *“between environment, technology, and urbanism”* – Yes!

“Science & Technology Studies, Urban Studies, Histories of Science, History and Theory of Design and Architecture, Anthropology, or Media Studies”—Yes!

“We would prefer a Non-Western context, but are open to any area of study.” – I've done a bit of both, and thinking about this is important to me

Stated desire to address coloniality, take up feminist approaches, orientation to justice – Yes!

How do you relate with the geographic location of the posting on the level of familiarity? Talk about its political, social, institutional, material and cultural contexts that you are and are not familiar with.

I've only visited Montreal once, but it appeals for a few reasons. I liked it, it seems like it's a great city with a lot of creative community, I know some artists and activists there. I have family origins - Quebecois and Maliseet - in the region so there would be a lot of new political context to understand about Canada and Quebec, but I would not feel completely conflicted about my own relation to place there. Language context might be a steep learning curve at first, but it would force me to improve my mediocre French, which otherwise might never happen. It's not too geographically far from my existing communities on the eastern coast of the U.S.

How does the location of the posting enable your research contexts or career trajectories?

Right now my diss research doesn't focus on Quebec, but I could probably be doing a very similar version of the project based on the forestry and architectural industries there. And Quebec is a very important site from which to be thinking about extractivism and

environmentalism in settler colonies, which is something I'm trying to integrate into my own work. And I gather academics in Canadian universities are much more ... advanced on these questions than in the US, so I feel like I'd be able to build a good community of people interested in similar topics and similarly motivated about their urgency. I already know Concordia is very situated in the STS/media studies milieu that I'm interested in. The French/English thing could help me expand my networks but not at the expense of moving to say, Europe and feeling completely cut off from the U.S. academy.

My Questions

Teaching: Would I actually prefer to be teaching more than one seminar a year? And on another note, would that make me less competitive for future job applications after this post-doc?

Minimal commitments might help me build a research profile but I also like teaching, and I don't know what's ultimately more useful.

Just thinking about it in relation to some jobs that have caught my eye:

<https://www.kth.se/en/om/work-at-kth/lediga-jobb/what:job/jobID:364107> I wonder if the predetermined focus of this posting would be limiting as far as my own research goes- it often seems like European postings are much narrower in their scope? And like teaching is very underemphasized. I'm not sure how I would feel about staying here in the long run, and I can't tell from the posting how much they're looking for that commitment.

<https://forum.ecodesigncollective.org/t/were-hiring-postdoctoral-fellowship-in-ecological-justice-and-design/337> - Ecology and design in the social sciences or humanities, in my hometown. Being in Baltimore would be personally great and politically meaningful for me. But I've often been more on the outside of Hopkins and MICA, seeing them from the perspective of community organizers and people they've exploited in various ways, so going inside those institutions would be weird for me. So the question: I always thought finding a position in Baltimore would be the dream, but... would it?

Post-Doctoral Associate Position b Design, Infrastructure, and Politics – Concordia University – January 2020

Concordia University Department of Sociology and Anthropology in Montreal, Canada is seeking a post- doctoral associate for a position of 3 years (potentially extendable to 4 years pending funding) as part of the global research project, “Governing Through Design: An Interdisciplinary Phenomenon,” sponsored by the Swiss National Science Foundation. This multi-year, multi-site project investigates how design shapes planetary governance, environments, politics, and futures. The project is part of a consortium comprising of the Academy of Art and Design FHNW, Basel, the University of Basel, and Concordia University.

We are looking for a scholar who works at the intersection of the social sciences or humanities and design. We seek interdisciplinary thinkers who have an interest and experience in researching historical and contemporary entanglements between environment, technology, and urbanism. We would prefer a Non-Western context, but are open to any area of study. Fields of specialization might include, but are not limited to: Science & Technology Studies, Urban Studies, Histories of Science, History and Theory of Design and Architecture, Anthropology, or Media Studies. We encourage applications from scholars working within post/decolonizing perspectives, feminist science studies, critical race studies, queer studies, indigenous studies, environmental humanities and critical spatial practice. An interest in new methods in design research and research-creation is a plus.

Job Requirements: strong research profile, organizational and networking skills, experience in collaborative and interdisciplinary research, exhibitions, and publishing projects. You will be primarily responsible for your own research as well as the organization of group work (curation, book editing projects, etc.) with our international team. Teaching requirements are limited, but you may be asked to teach, or assist with teaching, one seminar at the undergraduate or doctoral level a year. Applicants should be finished their PhD by September of 2020.

Salary is \$60,000-65,000 CAD/year+ benefits including health insurance plus very generous support for research and travel.

Start date: May 1, 2020

Contact and Application Information: Please send a CV, a cover letter detailing current and future research directions and work experience, a writing sample, and contact information for three referees.

Please send these materials to: postdocsinergia@gmail.com

Please put APPLICATION FOR DESIGN JOB in the email heading.

Applications are due by FEBRUARY 15, 2020

Questions should be directed to the Chair of the Committee Professor Orit Halpern at orit.halpern@concordia.ca

About the Department and Institute:

The Post-doc will be based in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and at the Milieux Institute for Arts, Culture, and Technology at Concordia University, Montréal. The Sociology and Anthropology Department is a dual department encompassing research and teaching in both Sociology and Anthropology at all levels of the university curriculum. It builds on a rich and creative tradition to address pressing contemporary social problems in a variety of cultural contexts relating to the personal, the local, and the global. The diverse variety of student and faculty interests and backgrounds makes working in our department a unique and rewarding experience.

The Milieux Institute for Arts, Culture, and Technology is a leading center for innovation bridging the arts, sciences, and technology with the humanities. We pride ourselves as innovators in merging multi-modal and multi-media methods with critical inquiry. The opportunity to work with artists, curators, and designers makes a position at Milieux unique. For more information:

<https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/sociology-anthropology.html>

www.speculativelife.com

<https://milieux.concordia.ca/>