POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

WeCLiC: Women’s Empowerment through Collaborative Learning in Community

Project overview: This post-doctoral opportunity is made possible through funding received through a SSHRC-funded Community and College Social Innovation grant. The proposed program, Women’s Empowerment through Collaborative Learning in Community (WeCLiC) is an extension of a longstanding research partnership between researchers at Fanshawe College and Western University, and SafeSpace, a drop-in space for street level sex workers in London, ON. Among key findings from previous a Fanshawe funded community based participatory research (CBPR) “A community based participatory needs assessment with street based sex workers in London, ON”, was participants’ desire to learn how to effectively use computers and the Internet. According to participants, knowing how to use computers, and how to search for and appraise information, connect with family and friends, and participate in online forums would open up opportunities for retraining, would provide ways to connect with others, and would create greater independence, and increase access to information that is most relevant to the individual’s need. Based on these findings, this proposed CBPR is guided by the following research question: How does the development of a ‘transliteracy learning site’ partnership between post-secondary institutions, community partners and marginalized women enhance social inclusion and occupational possibilities among program participants?

Location: The post-doctoral fellowship is located in London, Ontario, within the School of Occupational Therapy, Faculty of Health Sciences, Western University. The post-doctoral fellow will ideally reside in or near London, Ontario for the duration of the position to facilitate ethnographic data collection in this field site. The post-doctoral fellow will be co-supervised by Dr. Jodi Hall, Fanshawe College, and Dr. Debbie Laliberte Rudman, Western University.

Role description: The fellowship involves supporting the on-going conduct of the project, and developing a program of research in relation to the project. Responsibilities include: organizing and enacting intensive qualitative data collection with service seekers; assisting with supervision of masters-level and doctoral-level research trainees; supporting study coordination; contributing to analysis of qualitative data collected from key stakeholders, service providers and service seekers. In addition, the successful applicant will have an opportunity to develop a related program of research. For example, a program of research could
focus on the educational needs of street level sex workers; occupational needs of street level sex work; marginalized people; transliteracy; health literacy; public pedagogy, critical theories of space and spaces as they relate to social inclusion/exclusion; the development of innovative methods to conduct community based participatory research; or the integration of specific theoretical frames to address trauma, addiction and mental health in education.

**Qualifications:** To hold the fellowship, an applicant must: i) have completed all requirements for a doctoral degree at date of acceptance of the fellowship (or have a letter from their respective institution stating the timeframe for PhD completion); and ii) have received a PhD no more than 3 years before the application deadline.

**Training opportunities:** Depending on an applicant’s previous experiences and self-identified learning goals, opportunities are available for training in a variety of qualitative methodologies and methods, the application of critical social theory in research, partnership building in community-engaged research, research program development, knowledge mobilization, and conducting cross-national research.

**Available funding:** This fellowship is sponsored for two years (with a start date of July 15, 2016). The successful applicant will receive a $52,646/year fellowship. Additional funding may be available to extend participation in the project beyond the two year period.

**Evaluation criteria:** The Selection Committee comprised on community partners from SafeSpace and the Principle Investigator (Jodi Hall) will evaluate applicants on the basis of academic merit, as well as understanding of, and commitment to, community-based research approaches. Previous research and/or professional experience in the areas of education, street level sex work, literacy, marginalized women, criminalized women, mental health, addiction, trauma, ethnography, and/or critical social theory are assets.

**To apply:** Please send your application letter, CV and three letters of reference to via email to: Dr. Jodi Hall, School of Nursing, Faculty of Health Science, Human Services and Nursing jhall@fanshawec.ca

Posting date: June 21, 2016
Closing date: July 5, 2016