

Postdoc Opportunity: Nurturing Emotional Resilience in the Era of Climate Change
CENTER FOR HEALTHY MINDS
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Key Words: Postdoc; Affective Science, Social Psychology; Ecopsychology; Environmental Psychology, Climate Psychology; Contemplative Science; Climate Distress; Climate Grief; Eco-anxiety; Resilience

The Center for Healthy Minds at the University of Wisconsin–Madison is seeking a highly motivated postdoctoral researcher with a background in social science and qualitative methods to join a multidisciplinary team conducting research on emotional experiences of climate change and environmental crises. More specifically, this research will focus on understanding (1) varied emotional experiences of climate distress and eco-anxiety (2) how contemplative practices may nurture emotional resilience to this distress. This work centers people at the frontlines of environmental and climate impacts—those who bear the worst consequences of environmental crises (e.g., young people, Indigenous peoples, communities of color) and those deeply engaged in environmental work and ways of being.

Position Responsibilities and Contributions

In this position, you will be co-mentored and supported by [Dekila Chungyalpa](#), Director of the Loka Initiative, and [Dr. Christine Wilson-Mendenhall](#), Research Assistant Professor. The [Loka Initiative](#) is an interdisciplinary capacity-building and outreach platform at UW-Madison that works with faith leaders and culture keepers of Indigenous traditions on environmental and climate issues. Dr. Wilson-Mendenhall's research program brings a focus on understanding diverse emotional experiences and the contemplative practices that may be supportive in the context of a person's emotional journey. On our multidisciplinary team, you will play an integral role in a current mixed methods research project investigating the impacts of a new course offering designed to nurture emotional resilience for navigating climate distress and eco-anxiety, including data management, analysis, and preparing manuscripts. You will also have opportunities to engage in team science to design new studies, submit grant applications, and contribute to developing a theoretical framework that integrates inner, community, and planetary resilience. Taking an intersectional, justice-oriented lens to research projects in partnership with stakeholders is core to this work.

Minimum Required Qualifications

- Ph.D. (by the time of appointment) in Affective Science, Contemplative Science, Social Psychology, Clinical or Counseling Psychology, Climate or Environmental Psychology, Environmental Education, or a related field
- Strong communication and organizational skills

- Excel at working in a collaborative, multidisciplinary environment while also demonstrating independence and motivation to advance research projects
- Experience working with people with diverse identities in research and/or other settings, especially on issues important to underrepresented communities
- Experience with qualitative methods, coding, and analysis
- Experience or interest in mixed methods research and data analysis
- Emerging track record of publishing in academic journals

Desired (but not required) Qualifications

- Experience with program evaluation and intervention research
- Experience conducting research related to climate and environmental crises
- Experience with specific data analysis tools and software (please specify which tools/software in CV or cover letter)

The University of Wisconsin-Madison's Center for Healthy Minds (CHM) is a leader in conducting science - in and out of the lab - on how to nurture emotional well-being in daily life, considering the complexity of our human experience. Because of societal inequities in science and academia, as well as the disproportionate harm that marginalized members of our society experience - such as Black, Indigenous, People of color (BIPOC), people from poor and working-class backgrounds, persons with disabilities, women, and LGBTQ+ and non-binary identities, etc.- we believe these identities must be centered in our work in order to fulfill a vision of a kinder, wiser, more compassionate world.

We encourage applications from those who are completing their doctoral training or have recently done so. We also encourage applications from those who have earned their doctorates and are currently working in the field but are interested in additional training to pursue this research area.

- Salary: Minimum of \$61,008 year
- Percent Time: 100%
- Start Date: As early as 07/01/2024
- Two-year renewable position based on performance and funding availability

Application Instructions

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning immediately. The research team is enthusiastic to have someone onboard as soon as possible, but start date is negotiable. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Please submit a single combined PDF with the following:

1. Cover letter outlining how your skills and experiences align with this position, including both the research focus and qualifications specified above (not exceeding 2 pages).
2. A 1–2-page Research Statement describing your research to date and your career plans (and how you see this position fitting into these plans)
3. Curriculum Vitae
4. Name and contact information for 3 references

TO APPLY: Please send Lisa Wesley at chm-hr@chm.wisc.edu all requested documentation. Please note in the email subject line **Loka Postdoc application**.