



## McGill University – The Gerald Schwartz and Heather Reisman Postdoctoral Fellowship in Literacy

### Centre for Research on Children and Families

#### POSITION SUMMARY

McGill University and the Centre for Research on Children and Families (CRCF) invites applications for a Postdoctoral Fellow position focusing on interventions to promote literacy in children and youth living in vulnerable contexts. Newly established in 2015, the Gerald Schwartz and Heather Reisman Postdoctoral Fellowship in Literacy, is awarded by the Faculty of Arts upon recommendation of the McGill's CRCF, to one postdoctoral fellow on the basis of academic merit, previous experience and current program of research.

#### THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

McGill's CRCF is home to cutting-edge research on effective programs and policies for children and their families. The CRCF brings together 25 faculty members who lead more than 30 different projects, provides training to dozens of graduate students yearly, and offers a unique platform to develop local, national and international collaborations with academic and non-academic milieus. The CRCF is affiliated with McGill's School of Social Work, and is home to the Royal Bank of Canada-funded Children's Services Data Laboratory. Our research model at CRCF builds on participatory research principles where the organizations with whom we collaborate are fully involved in the research process. This model has proven effective in meeting the needs of our partners and in generating relevant and timely scientific research. The Centre is bringing together a group of researchers with expertise in child development, child welfare, family poverty, and program evaluation. It is a leading force in the training of social work graduate students, with more than 40 trainees involved in the Centre's activities yearly. Our graduate and post-graduate students are actively engaged in every component of their training, including developing partnerships with service providers and policy makers, as well as disseminating findings and contributing to knowledge-mobilization activities. Many students become influential researchers upon graduation.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The postdoctoral opportunity was made possible through a generous gift from the *Gerald Schwartz and Heather Reisman Foundation*. This Foundation has been supporting the Love of Reading initiative for the past 10 years, a strategically focused program with a sustained track record and strong profile in schools across Canada. Given CRCF's interest in finding effective programs for vulnerable children and the important groundwork that has been done by the Love of Reading initiative, a team of researchers and graduate students at CRCF is currently partnering with the Foundation to document the impact of their program on children's literacy.

## **FOCUS OF POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP**

Building on the work that will be conducted through the collaboration between CRCF and the Foundation, the postdoctoral fellow will be invited to contribute to the development of a broader collaborative program of research on literacy programs for vulnerable children and their families. To be considered for the fellowship, candidates should have an emerging record of scholarship, as well as a strong motivation to contribute further to the development of the evidence-based in an area related to vulnerable children with links to literacy, school preparedness or cognitive development. Examples of relevant research areas include but are not limited to:

- Early intervention for the prevention of developmental difficulties in vulnerable children;
- Development and measurement of early literacy skills;
- Early intervention for the prevention of reading disabilities in preschool children;
- Assessment and intervention with vulnerable school-aged children.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

The successful candidate must have a Ph.D. in fields related to social work, psychology, and education. The candidate must have strong research and writing skills; excellent interpersonal, time management and organizational skills; and the ability to work both independently and as a member of an interdisciplinary research team.

Postdoctoral fellows will be supervised by Dr. Delphine Collin-Vézina and Dr. Nico Trocmé but will also work with other faculty members and researchers at CRCF. Fellows will also have the opportunity to lead or collaborate on all aspects of the research, supervise undergraduate and doctoral-level research assistants, and participate in various training opportunities

## **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

Candidates must be eligible for postdoctoral status, as defined by McGill University regulations, and must be within five years of graduating with a Ph.D. Please refer to <http://www.mcgill.ca/gps/postdocs> for additional requirements set by McGill University.

## **ANNUAL SALARY**

\$CAD 70,000 + \$CAD 20,000 for research related travel expenses per year, renewable once.

## **TO APPLY**

Submit curriculum vitae, statement of research interests, three letters of reference and writing sample. Review of applicants will begin November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and will continue until the position is filled. Applicants should be ready to start no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Applications should be directed to Catherine Roy at [catherine.roy@mcgill.ca](mailto:catherine.roy@mcgill.ca)

For more information: Catherine Roy  
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