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## **2-year Postdoctoral Fellowship in Economic Geography**

McGill University, Department of Geography

Project: Linking national and regional income inequality –  
Cross-country data harmonization and analysis

### **Posting**

A 2-year postdoctoral fellowship (PDF) is available in the Department of Geography at McGill University (Montréal, Canada) to join a multidisciplinary research group examining long-run patterns of regional income inequality across five high income countries (Canada, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and United States). As an active member of the research group, the selected candidate will work under the supervision of Prof. Sébastien Breau who is the project lead for the Canadian team.

The 2-year PDF is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) as part of the Open Research Area program for the social sciences (which is a unique partnership between national research funding agencies – the ANR, DFG, ESRC and SSHRC – to allow for international collaborations). The PDF thus provides an exciting opportunity to work on one of the most important social challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century while gaining a high degree of professional exposure and networking as part of an international team of researchers.

### **Project description**

While global income inequality has been falling over the last few decades, income inequalities within most of the world's leading economies have been rising. The goal of this project is to understand how the rise in national income inequalities is connected to the evolution of spatial inequalities within countries. To explore this connection, a team of researchers from different universities (London School of Economics, University of Oxford, University of Bonn, McGill University and the Université Evry-Val d'Essone) has been assembled with the specific aims of (i) developing a method for spatially decomposing national income distributions in an internationally comparable way, (ii) describing trends in spatial income inequality across countries and (iii) understanding the common patterns and differences in sub-national inequalities across countries.

### **Research responsibilities**

The successful candidate will be expected to:

- Contribute to the development of comparable definitions of local labour market areas

- Work with the local research team (based at McGill) to develop a regional income inequality dataset (based on the 20% micro-data files of the Census of Population)
- Explore various decompositions of national inequality between- and within-regional components for Canada
- Run counterfactual experiments to analyze the determinants of between- and within-regional inequalities
- Participate in the analysis of cross-country trends and differences in sub-national patterns of income inequality
- Contribute to the development of various outputs (technical reports, peer reviewed publications, etc.)
- Present research ideas and results in workshops and conferences

### **Qualifications required**

- Hold a PhD degree in geography, economics, planning or a related field within the social sciences
- Possess strong analytical and quantitative methods skills (with experience in data analysis using software such as STATA, SAS, R)
- Prior experience working with large databases an asset
- Good organizational skills and prior experience with independent research, academic publication and knowledge translation
- English language proficiency for scientific writing

### **Value and duration**

The salary is consistent with a SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship (\$45,000 / year + benefits) and is for a 2-year period, starting in the fall of 2021 (flexible due to the on-going pandemic).

### **To apply**

Please send a copy of your CV, university transcripts, a representative publication and a cover letter (which explains how your research interests and academic background make you a good fit for this position) to Prof. Sébastien Breau ([sebastien.breau@mcgill.ca](mailto:sebastien.breau@mcgill.ca)). Short-listed candidates will be contacted and asked to provide two letters of reference from current/former academic supervisors. Applications will be reviewed starting on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (and continue until filled).

### **Further information**

For all enquiries about the position, please contact Prof. Sébastien Breau ([sebastien.breau@mcgill.ca](mailto:sebastien.breau@mcgill.ca)).