Post-Doctoral position

Weaving expertise for transformation (WEFT)

Start date: negotiable, as early as January 2025.

Salary: $62,000 (CAD) p.a. plus benefits

Duration: two years (one year renewable to two years)

Location: Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada, with some travel to other jurisdictions in Atlantic Canada and eastern Quebec.

Principal Investigators: Kate Sherren (Dalhousie Univ.), Ian Stewart (Univ. of King's College/Dalhousie Univ.)

Description

This is an exciting opportunity for a highly motivated post-doctoral fellow (PDF) with broad interests in applied work on the epistemic challenges of interdisciplinary integration in social-ecological systems (SES) research. Joining researchers Sherren and Stewart in WEFT, this post-doctoral research position will engage in both field work and theoretical reflection on case studies emerging within the larger research project TranSECT (Transformative adaptations to Social-Ecological Climate change Trajectories) whose focus is on studying climate change adaptations through a case-study approach in communities throughout the Maritime provinces and eastern Quebec. TranSECT is a project within the recently established CFREF-funded *Transforming Climate Action*, a collaboration between Dalhousie University, University of Quebec at Rimouski, University of Laval and Memorial University.

WEFT is the 'reflexive' moment within TranSECT, comprising one Work Package (WP 5.4) within TranSECT's total of 14 WPs (see **Fig. 1 below** summarizing overall structure, research questions and geographies of TranSECT WPs). Social-ecological systems research pursued across the TranSECT case studies will pose interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary epistemic challenges around how knowledge is diversely generated, and whether/how they can be integrated with each other. Rich field and theoretical opportunities are offered by the considerable variety of subject matters (such as diverse human communities and the ecologies that sustain them), and different knowledge communities (with their respective methods and vocabularies used). The successful PDF within WEFT will join us in documenting and understanding challenging dimensions of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research emerging from the activities of several case studies within TranSECT.

The successful candidate for this PDF will be inspired to dig deeper into climate change adaptation challenges at the coastal community level studied by TranSECT case studies, and be able to work alongside discipline-focused researchers across STEM, social science, health and humanities fields. They will have a drive to draw on their background in an array of disciplines and fields that support and inspire SES as boundary objects, likely using qualitative inter-and transdisciplinary methods. Relevant backgrounds could include Science and Technology Studies/History Philosophy and/or Sociology of Science, Anthropology, Human Geography, Sustainability Studies and/or Cognitive Science, but this is not an exhaustive list.

The idea candidate should:

- have a PhD in one of these fields or cognate disciplines grounded in the human-ecology relationship;
- have an interest/background in the intellectual foundations of SES research;
- have an interest in how such research can support on going efforts to seek solutions to community-level adaptation to climate change in eastern Quebec and the Maritimes;
- be open to learning from and contributing to research engaged with Indigenous communities and ways of knowing;
- be a team player, both in their interpersonal skills and affinities, and intellectually in their interdisciplinary openness.

Transforming Climate Action (TCA) is a high-profile research context that will allow leverage for other funding. PDFs in TranSECT will be eligible to lead author (PI) small grant opportunities, and thus supervise their own trainees, building the candidate's research profile and research resources. The successful PDF candidate in WEFT will have opportunity to forge new research directions and partnerships within TranSECT and the broader TCA, including with partnering organizations within the community and private sectors, as well as with various levels of government operating in Eastern Canada.

TCA is committed to providing equitable and fair opportunities to everyone regardless of gender, gender identity or expression, ethnicity, race, national background, (dis)ability, or other diversity factors. We welcome applications from people identifying as members of groups who would contribute to these aims yet may have been underserved by the academy. This includes but is not limited to Indigenous people, visible minorities, ethnic minorities, persons living with disabilities, those with minority sexual orientations and gender identities, and first-in-family scholars.

How to apply

There is a two-stage application process. Pre-submission enquiries are welcome where potential applicants have specific questions.

Interested candidates should first express interest by emailing kate.sherren@dal.ca and ian.stewart@ukings.ca (**subject**: WEFT PDF) with:

- A max 2-page cover letter describing your experiential and research background, interests and qualifications as aligned with the content above, and

- A full curriculum vitae.

A subset of those who express interest will be sent the longer-form PDF description of TranSECT and its various case studies, and invited to discuss the position in light of that larger context.

Open until filled. Review of applications will begin on **Oct 1, 2024**.

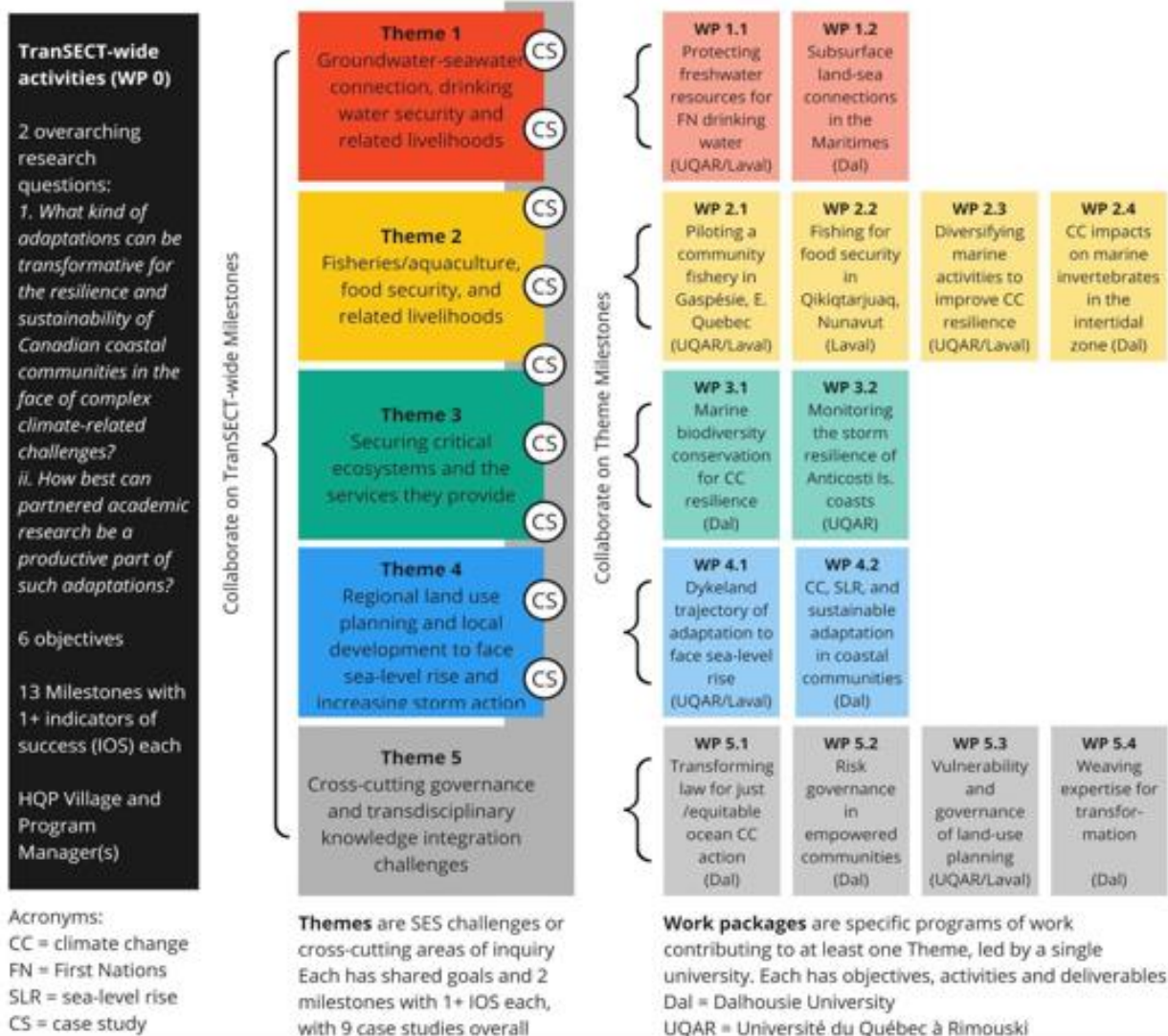Figure 1 follows on the next page...

Figure 1 Overall TranSECT structure

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