

## **Postdoctoral researcher at the University of California, Merced**

### **Dynamic modeling of foraging behavior for the Sevilleta LTER**

#### **Description**

The Quantitative EcoDynamics lab at UC Merced (PI J.D. Yeakel) in partnership with the Sevilleta LTER Program at the University of New Mexico invites applicants for the position of Postdoctoral Researcher to study small mammal ecology in the Chihuahuan Desert of central New Mexico. The postdoc would be based at UC Merced under the direction of Yeakel, but would work closely with Seth Newsome at UNM, an animal ecologist specializing in stable isotope analysis and Co-PI on the Sevilleta LTER project. One of the primary missions of the Sevilleta LTER is to understand and ultimately predict changes in organismal populations and community dynamics in response to increasingly unpredictable changes in climate. The postdoc will develop mechanistic models of animal foraging, with a specific focus on the diverse rodent community to understand how seasonal and longer-term changes in vegetation influence foraging behavior, and how this is predicted to impact population dynamics and potentially the risk of extinction. These modeling efforts will utilize and facilitate fieldwork in the Sevilleta region, where stable isotope data, information on body condition, and the reproductive success of individual rodents spanning 10 species are currently being collected. There will be opportunities for engaging with and spending time at the University of New Mexico and in Sevilleta field sites to ensure modeling efforts are closely aligned with and can best utilize data collected from the field. The primary responsibilities of the successful postdoctoral researcher will involve participation in all stages of research: from design, to implementation, to writing and publishing peer-reviewed manuscripts describing results. We expect the postdoctoral researcher to serve as primary author on all projects that she/he leads.

#### **Details**

**Funding:** The position is for 24 months with annual renewal pending satisfactory demonstration of progress

**Primary institution:** University of California, Merced

**Affiliated institution:** University of New Mexico

#### **Preferred Qualifications**

- Ph.D. in Biology or a related field
- Expertise and experience in foraging models or related ecological theory

- Particular interest will be given to candidates with experience in Dynamic Programming techniques
- Strong programming expertise in C, Julia, Matlab, R, or a related language(s)
- Peer-reviewed publications that demonstrate strong theoretical skills
- Good interpersonal communication skills

**To Apply**

Please email [jyeakel@ucmerced.edu](mailto:jyeakel@ucmerced.edu) with the subject line: ForagingPostdoc  
And include: 1) A cover letter indicating your interest and qualifications for this position, 2) your CV, 3) and contact information for three professional references.  
Please contact Justin Yeakel at [jyeakel@ucmerced.edu](mailto:jyeakel@ucmerced.edu) with any questions about the position.