

Graduate Assistantship – Human dimensions of citizen science

1 MS or 1 PhD position at NC State University

Starting January or Fall 2017 (flexible)

Graduate opportunities in Fish and Wildlife Conservation within the Department of Forestry & Environmental Resources for self-motivated and hardworking student interested in the human dimensions of citizen science. The graduate student will conduct research via resources and tools available in collaboration with SciStarter.com, the largest repository of citizen science projects in the world and a comprehensive database detailing project design features and outcomes. Thanks to a NSF-AISL Pathways award, SciStarter will soon offer each member a dashboard to manage and display their citizen science activities, track their progress in projects, network with others, and consent to have their online behavior tracked across citizen science projects.

Possible research directions include, but are not limited to:

- * linkages between pathway of initial recruitment and subsequent retention in citizen science
- * explore practices for the co-management of citizen scientists with awareness of their enrollment in multiple projects
- * linkages between citizen science project design and scientific, learning, and conservation outcomes
- * linkages between participation dynamics within and among projects and scientific, learning, and conservation outcomes
- * design of recommender systems to enhance participant agency in navigating an ecosystem of highly varied projects
- * project owner perceptions about project aggregation, competition, and collaboration.

Students will be expected to engage with the activities of the university-wide cluster on Leadership in Public Science (Caution-<https://facultyclusters.ncsu.edu/clusters/leadership-in-public-science/> < Caution-<https://facultyclusters.ncsu.edu/clusters/leadership-in-public-science/> >) which offers unique intellectual focus and professional development in the realm of citizen science, open science, and science communication. The students will spend time in the Biodiversity Research lab at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (Caution-<http://naturalsciences.org/research-collections/biodiversity-lab> < Caution-<http://naturalsciences.org/research-collections/biodiversity-lab> >) where they will have ample opportunities to develop their science communication skills.

Minimum qualifications:

BS (MS for PhD opening) degree in social sciences, information sciences, human dimensions or similar with some coursework in ecology GPA of 3.4 or higher GRE scores near or above 160 in verbal and quantitative areas Demonstrated research experience (data collection, analysis, and writing) Interest in interdisciplinary (social and biological) research Commitment to public science Excellent verbal and written communication skills

Preferred qualifications:

Experience with citizen science

Experience with quantitative research and survey development Experience with Google Analytics

Quantitative analysis skills

To apply, submit a pre-application to Dr. Cooper at cbcoope3@ncsu.edu < Caution-mailto:cbcoope3@ncsu.edu > by Nov 7.

Submit pre-application as a single PDF file attached to an email introducing yourself with “Human dimensions of citizen science graduate application” in the email subject line.:

- 1) cover letter summarizing interest in the position, qualifications, and experience, as well as research and career goals
- 2) Curriculum Vitae
- 3) academic transcripts (can be unofficial)
- 4) GRE scores (can be unofficial)
- 5) Names, contact information, and short description of relationship for three professional references

Selected applicants will also need to apply to the Dept of Forestry & Environmental Resources at North Carolina State University before acceptance.

Graduate Assistantships – Coupled natural-human systems

1 MS and 1 PhD position at NC State University

Starting January or Fall 2017 (flexible)

Graduate opportunities in Fish and Wildlife Conservation with the Department of Forestry & Environmental Resources for self-motivated and hardworking students interested in the social and ecological dimensions of avian stewardship on residential lands. The graduate students will conduct research that leverages citizen science projects associated with the Cooper lab, which includes Sparrow Swap (<http://scistarter.com/sparrowswap/> < Caution-<http://scistarter.com/sparrowswap/> >),

Sound Around Town (launching this winter in collaboration with the National Park Service's Dark Skies and Natural Sounds division), and the Raleigh site for the Smithsonian's Neighborhood Nestwatch. Possible research directions include, but are not limited to, management of invasive house sparrows, mapping environmental contaminants based on their levels of bioaccumulation in house sparrow eggs, and the influence of soundscapes and lightscapes on avian and human wellbeing.

Students will be expected to engage with the activities of the university-wide cluster on Leadership in Public Science (Caution-<https://facultyclusters.ncsu.edu/clusters/leadership-in-public-science/> < Caution-<https://facultyclusters.ncsu.edu/clusters/leadership-in-public-science/> >) which offers unique intellectual focus and professional development in the realm of citizen science, open science, and science communication. The students will spend time in the Biodiversity Research lab at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (Caution-<http://naturalsciences.org/research-collections/biodiversity-lab> < Caution-<http://naturalsciences.org/research-collections/biodiversity-lab> >) where they will have opportunities to develop their science communication skills.

Minimum qualifications:

BS (MS for PhD opening) degree in ecology, wildlife, natural resources, conservation or related discipline with coursework in social sciences GPA of 3.4 or higher GRE scores near or above 160 in verbal and quantitative areas Demonstrated research experience (data collection, analysis, and writing) Background in natural resource management, conservation, or urban ecology Interest in interdisciplinary (social and biological) research Commitment to public science

Excellent verbal and written communication skills

Preferred qualifications:

Experience with citizen science

Experience in science communication

Advanced geospatial and quantitative skills

To apply, submit a pre-application to Dr. Cooper at cbcoope3@ncsu.edu < Caution-<mailto:cbcoope3@ncsu.edu> > by Nov 7. Submit pre-application as a single PDF file attached to an email introducing yourself with "Coupled Human Natural Systems graduate application" in the email subject line.:

- 1) cover letter summarizing interest in the position, qualifications, and experience, as well as research and career goals
- 2) Curriculum Vitae
- 3) academic transcripts (can be unofficial)
- 4) GRE scores (can be unofficial)
- 5) Names and contact information for three professional references

Selected applicants will also need to apply to the Dept of Forestry & Environmental Resources at North Carolina State University before acceptance.