



24 November, 2021

**POST-DOCTORAL ASSOCIATE, LEADERSHIP FOR THE ECOZOIC,  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND APPLIED ECONOMICS,  
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT**

**JOB SUMMARY:** We seek a Post-doctoral Associate to join the Ecological Economics node of the [Leadership for the Ecozoic](#) (L4E) initiative at the University of Vermont, in partnership with McGill University and housed in UVM's department of Community Development and Applied Economics (CDAE) in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The position is for 2 years, ideally beginning in February 2022, with the possibility of promotion to Research Associate at that time. The workload of this position will be balanced at approximately 50% administration, advising, and outreach and 50% research. In collaboration with L4E faculty, the Post-doctoral Associate will strategically develop the activities of the UVM L4E node to further the goals of L4E while managing and contributing to a productive, inclusive, and impactful research lab.

**About Leadership for the Ecozoic:**

The Ecozoic represents a vision for the future founded on mutually enhancing relationships between human societies and the global community of life through the lens of social justice. L4E, based at McGill University and the University of Vermont, works toward that vision by: (1) advancing transdisciplinary scholarship in select doctoral programs to educate and empower new leaders for the Ecozoic; (2) co-creating a global research-to-action network to heal and restore Earth's life support systems and to define and foster a different mode of inhabiting the Earth, respectful of life's myriad ways of knowing and being; and (3) mobilizing and focusing higher education resources and communication on mitigating multi-faceted, human-induced, planetary declines in life support capacity. See the [L4E Strategic Plan](#) for more information.

L4E aims to establish a "global campus" that brings together an expanded community to envision, disseminate, and implement socially just pathways towards the Ecozoic. To realize this vision, L4E has begun to establish a set of Network Strategy Centers (NSCs) in partnership with universities, NGOs and existing global networks. We focus on implementing, communicating, and advocating for paradigm shift outcomes through internships, action-research projects, long-term partnerships and strategic communications. The NSC in Ecological Economics is headquartered at UVM. Our Ecozoic Lab focuses on the role of economics in a socially just Ecozoic transition, where economics is defined in the Polanyian sense of the interchange of humans with their natural and social environments to supply the means of material want satisfaction. We are particularly engaged in:

1) Economic analyses of essential resources on a finite planet, including food, energy, water, ecosystem services<sup>1</sup>, knowledge, and monetary and financial systems;

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<sup>1</sup> In the context of the Ecozoic, ecosystem services are not defined as nature's benefits to people, but rather as nature's benefits to the community of life and people's benefits to nature. They are services in



- 2) The innovation, resurrection and promotion of political-economic institutions, legal and governance structures, and cultural norms and ethical values that facilitate the cooperation and collective action required to address complex, multi-scale ecological and social problems;
- 3) The development, communication and implementation of policies that promote a socially just sustainability transition through our [Ecozoic Policy Project](#).

The other node of the L4E project is Anthropology for the Ecozoic (A4E), guiding the development of an NSC of the same name. Headquartered in the Department of Anthropology at McGill, A4E is dedicated to using engaged anthropological research and pedagogy to radically shift how we think, and act, as humans in a more-than-human world, as a steppingstone to the Ecozoic. As a discipline grounded in place, anthropology brings a holistic perspective to the full spectrum of institutions, knowledge and values comprising the human relations with other life, as these relations constitute ‘territories of life’ – territories and areas governed, managed and conserved by custodian Indigenous peoples and other local communities. A4E also concerns itself with the conditions for defense and resurgence of territories of life in relation to global market systems, resource extractive industries and systems of state and international law and governance. A4E includes a Critical Media Lab that experiments with multi-media approaches to the “deep listening” needed for an ethics in sync with the life on the planet; and to the story telling required for effective Ecozoic knowledge dissemination.

The successful candidate is expected to collaborate with program faculty and PhD students at both UVM and McGill on advancing the general goals of the Ecozoic through research, outreach, teaching and networking. The Ecozoic Lab at UVM functions as a team with a relatively flat hierarchical structure and supports quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research. We seek a candidate with a background in transdisciplinary approaches to solving problems at the interface of human systems and the rest of nature.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Specific responsibilities will be developed in collaboration with the successful applicant from among the following:

- Organize, manage, and contribute to lab meetings, webinars, workshops, and presentations on L4E related topics.
- Build an externally funded research program both as a principal investigator and as the program manager (project administration, budget management and reporting) on Lab grants where program faculty and students are serving as the PI.

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the Georgescu-Roegen sense: ecosystems provide a flux of benefits at a rate over time and are not physically transformed into the benefits they provide. Like public services, they are largely incompatible with market provision.



- Work with L4E affiliated PhD students to develop their dissertation research and apply for external research funding, with the option of serving on PhD committees following approval by the Graduate College;
- Initiate outreach and build connections with universities, NGOs and existing local, regional, and global networks to help establish a set of Network Strategy Centers (NSCs);
- Work with the Ecozoic Policy Project to provide training and experience in real-world, place-based policy analysis, research-to-action policy partnerships, and policy advocacy for students and supporting faculty, emphasizing ecological economics and governance, agroecology, and energy and climate justice.
- Help design and teach courses in Ecological Economics Methods and Ecological Economics Practice, which also contribute to the Ecological Economics Certificate at UVM.
- Work with L4E Associate Director in continuing to strengthen the L4E network and overall vision, including attending regular professional staff meetings.
- Work to create and ensure an inclusive environment for all students, researchers, collaborators, and stakeholders.

We appreciate the need for healthy work-life balance and do not expect a single individual to undertake all these responsibilities.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** A Ph.D. is required for this position. The ideal candidate is collaborative, collegial, and self-directed; ready to establish and fund a research program related to creating mutually enhancing human-earth relationships. The ideal candidate will have education and/or experience related to ecological economics, complex systems, sustainability science, social-ecological transformation, degrowth, post-growth futures, environmental justice, social movements, political ecology or related fields integrating the social and natural sciences. Candidates with training in traditional disciplines (i.e. non-transdisciplinary fields) who have a commitment to transdisciplinary research will also be considered. Applicants should describe their research interests, vision, and experience; practical experience; commitment to the Ecozoic vision; and how they will use this position to advance that vision in collaboration with the L4E team with a particular emphasis on Ph.D. students.

**SALARY:** L4E funding provides for a salary of \$49,000 in the first year plus benefits, including three weeks of vacation. There may also be opportunities to supplement this salary by designing and teaching courses in Ecological Economics Methods and Ecological Economics Practice, which also contribute to the [Ecological Economics Certificate](#) at UVM as an adjunct instructor.

**DIVERSITY STATEMENT:** The University is especially interested in candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of the institution. Applicants are encouraged to discuss in their



cover letter how they will further this goal. The University of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any other category legally protected by federal or state law.

Justice, equity, diversity and inclusion are core values for L4E. We believe diversity of lifeways and of lifeforms leads to resiliency and we celebrate the power in our community of diversity relating to gender, race, socioeconomic status, culture, language, nationality, religion and other ways of being, knowing and expression. UVM's current L4E cohort includes students from Canada, Colombia, Guatemala, Nepal, Nigeria, and the United States.

**APPLICATION:** To apply, send a cover letter, CV, research statement, diversity statement, 2-3 writing samples (e.g., published or working papers) and the L4E [Recruitment Questionnaire](#) to Joshua Farley ([jfarley@uvm.edu](mailto:jfarley@uvm.edu)) with a copy to Dina Spigelski ([dina.spigelski@mcgill.ca](mailto:dina.spigelski@mcgill.ca)). Letters of reference and transcripts will be requested from candidates who advance to the pre-interview round.

**SETTING:** Vermont is a small state with corresponding access to local and state politicians, a national leader in small businesses and non-governmental organizations, and therefore offers an exceptionally dynamic setting for applied research and community engagement. It is ranked among the "greenest", safest and healthiest states. The greater Burlington area, in an exceptionally beautiful location on the shores of Lake Champlain, is a wonderful place to live, work and play.