

Associate Director, Education and Training Core  
Social Science Research Institute  
Duke University  
Box 90420  
Durham, NC 27708-0420

May 20, 2011

RE: Postdoctoral Associate in Survey Research Methods

Dear Hiring Manager:

As a recent PhD graduate in Sociology from Duke University I am an excellent fit for the Social Science Research Institute's (SSRI) Postdoctoral Associate position in Survey Research Methods. I believe that my experience in publishing quantitative research, conducting survey research, and teaching undergraduates would be particularly beneficial to this position.

During my six years at Duke, I served as a Research Assistant and Project Manager for four multidisciplinary research teams. In these positions, I analyzing quantitative and qualitative data, serving as first author on four manuscripts that have been accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals, and designing surveys using the latest technology and best practices advocated by survey methodologists. For example, as a Research Assistant at Duke University's Center for Child and Family Policy, I designed, implemented, and analyzed the results from a web-based survey. The findings served as a basis for reports I wrote for funding agencies and for manuscripts that have been submitted for publication in peer-reviewed journals. By becoming immersed in survey research, I am equipped with the skills necessary to develop resources and advise social and behavioral scientists about survey research. As I also have ample experience working in a collaborative environment on survey research topics, I am confident I can assist SSRI personnel in developing the Duke Initiative on Survey Methodology.

As you can see on my resume, I also have experience in conducting independent survey research and teach Duke undergraduate students. My independent research interests and experience intersect with Dr. Johnson's research agenda on voting behavior in U.S. presidential elections and the validity of survey research methods teaching experience includes assisting undergraduates who were conducting quantitative research as part of class projects and serving as a mentor for an undergraduate who analyzed data from a large, secondary data set for their senior thesis. By merging the knowledge gained from working with undergraduates on survey research projects with my ability to effectively present quantitative research findings at national, scientific conferences I know I can develop and lead effective and engaging workshops that introduce Duke students, faculty, and research scientists to the science and art of conducting high-quality survey research.

I am available to start immediately. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions at 919-123-4567 or duke.student@duke.edu. Thank you very much for your time and consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Duke Student