Development Economics Junior Researcher for the Development Data Lab

We founded the Development Data Lab with the idea that harnessing new streams of data can dramatically improve the way that policymaking and research are conducted in developing countries. Across the world, there is a severe shortage of data that policymakers and researchers can use to design, implement, and evaluate effective policies. We need capable, motivated individuals to help us build an open data universe for poverty research, and to deploy these data to build better policy and contribute to making a better society.

If you work alongside our team, you will learn cutting edge methods in both computer science and economics, skills that are highly valued in the research world, as well as in the private sector. You'll learn big data skills that are increasingly valuable in academic research but aren't currently being taught in Economics departments.

The role:
Professors Sam Asher (Johns Hopkins SAIS) and Paul Novosad (Dartmouth College) are seeking to hire a junior researcher to work with the Development Data Lab team on the determinants of local economic development in India. This role will offer the opportunity to work directly with the principal investigators in the development of new research as well as the analysis on ongoing projects. Qualified candidates will have strong quantitative and computer skills, with experience in data analysis and management using Stata or a high level of proficiency in R or Python and willingness to learn Stata. Other computer programming skills, especially Python and QGIS (or comparable mapping software, e.g. ArcGIS), are highly desirable. Tasks will include scraping, managing, and analyzing very large datasets on poverty and growth in India, working with new methods in computer science and statistics, and conducting literature reviews.

The work will focus on three areas. The first is the development of the recently released Socioeconomic High-resolution Rural-Urban Geographic Platform for India (SHRUG) — the largest open access socioeconomic data repository covering India's 500,000 villages and 8000 towns. The successful candidate will work closely alongside the Chief Data Scientist to improve the SHRUG, and to generate and visualize socially meaningful insights from the data. The second is to provide data gathering and analytical support for early-stage research projects, including examining judicial bias against marginalized groups and the ability of politicians to influence judicial outcomes, patterns and impacts of urban segregation, and the impacts of mining on neighboring rural communities. These projects include partnerships with the World Bank, the Government of India, and research partners across multiple top-tier universities. Thirdly, the candidate will assist in the further development of open source data and research activities to support knowledge generation and policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic in India.

Compensation will be competitive and based on experience.

Location: Delhi preferred, but work will be conducted remotely so other locations are possible
Deadline to apply: Applicants are reviewed on a rolling basis

Desired start date: As soon as possible
Compensation: competitive and commensurate with experience/qualifications

Qualifications:
-A Bachelor's degree in a natural science, computer science, economics, statistics or a related field. A candidate with a Master's degree would also be considered.
-Knowledge of Stata (required, unless you have **significant** skills in other languages)
-Knowledge of Python and other programming languages (desirable but not required)
-Knowledge of GIS software and Linux systems (desirable but not required)
-Excellent management and organizational skills along with strong quantitative skills
-Fluency and excellent communication skills in English
-Flexible, self-motivating, able to manage multiple tasks efficiently, and team player

If you are interested, please send a CV, transcript, single-authored writing sample and code sample to info@devdatalab.org. In the message, please describe your reasons for applying for this position and any other skills that you think will be valuable in this work that are not listed in your CV.

The Development Data Lab is strongly committed to diversity and inclusion. Applications by members of all underrepresented groups are encouraged.