

Higher Ed Protest Postdoctoral Researcher, 2026-27

Position: Postdoctoral Researcher

Salary: \$60,000 USD/year and conference travel funds

Duration: One year (AY 2026-27), preferred start date July 1, 2026 with some flexibility

Deadline: Applications due Fri., May 15, 11:59pm Pacific Time, submitted [here](#)

Description

The Higher Ed Protest Event Dataset (HiPED) project is hiring a postdoctoral researcher us on a study of higher education protest. This will be a full-time, remote position funded by the Distributed AI Research Institute (DAIR) but with shared supervision between the project's PIs, Prof. Ellen Berrey (Department of Sociology, University of Toronto) and Dr. Alex Hanna (DAIR). The position will last for one year, from 2026 to 2027; contingent on funding, it may extend an additional year. Pay rate will be \$60,000 USD/year, with an expected time commitment of 30 hours/week on average.

The postdoc will help us analyze our Higher Ed Protest Event Dataset and will collaboratively write, edit, and publish academic articles based on these data. This project contains data on higher education protests and protest management in the US and Canada from 2012 to 2018, drawn from student newspapers. You can find more details about the dataset [here](#).

Duties and Responsibilities

- Handle and analyze data from multiple structured datasets, including HiPED, IPEDS, and the US and Canadian Census
- Run statistical analyses on merged quantitative datasets
- Analyze, draft, revise, submit, and publish academic articles in collaboration with PIs and other researchers
- Meet regularly with project teams, including PIs, research assistants, and other collaborators

Required Qualifications

- PhD in sociology, political science, or similar fields (e.g., comparative political economy, economics)
- Expertise in the study of social movements
- Scholarly interest in anti-racist politics, labor activism, and policies of higher education institutions in the U.S. and/or Canada
- Familiarity and value alignment with the principles outlined in [DAIR's Research Philosophy](#), including accountability and interrogating power
- Experience in quantitative statistical methods, such as regression, fixed and random effects, and multilevel modeling
- Experience with R and RStudio, especially the tidyverse, targets, and glm packages
- Familiarity with the UNIX command line

- Experience with common data engineering practices (e.g., merging datasets, architecting new data pipelines)
- Excellent writing and communication skills
- Ability to communicate results to readers with varying levels of quantitative literacy
- Proven track record of publishing in top-tier social science journals, such as *American Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*, *Sociological Methodology*, or their equivalent in non-sociology disciplines
- Ability to work independently and proactively and also collaboratively with research teams
- Capacity to attend weekly online meetings with PIs

Preferred Qualifications

- Familiarity with Google Cloud
- Basic understanding of MySQL and SQL more generally
- Basic competency with Python
- Familiarity with mixed methods research that brings together quantitative data and qualitative case studies
- Interest and experience in communicating academic research to a more general audience and/or campus activists (e.g., print, video, audio)

We are not interested in candidates who rely on “AI” tools for programming (e.g., “vibe coding”) or manuscript drafting, editing, or writing.

Funding and Compensation

Pay rate will be \$60,000 USD/year. DAIR also will cover registration and travel expenses for at least two academic conferences.

We are able to purchase a laptop computer and ergonomic home office equipment if needed.

Additional Details

- This is a remote position. You are not required to reside with the US or Canada.
- Expected time commitment is 30 hours/week on average. This is a 75% position.
- We anticipate that your remaining 25% time will be dedicated to your own research agenda. We support presenting, sharing, and engaging that work within the DAIR Institute and/or the University of Toronto.
- Flexibility with the start date within 2026, although July 2026 is preferred.
- Dissertations must be defended and completed by start date.

Application Process and Requirements

To apply, submit the following items to both Ellen Berrey and Alex Hanna via this [link](#) by Fri., May 15. Applications will not be accepted after this date.

- A short paragraph outlining your interest and background
- CV

- Up to three research manuscripts (either published or unpublished) that are representative of the writing and quantitative skills you would use in this project.
- Two names and email addresses from recommenders. Recommenders should be collaborators, advisors, mentors, or supervisors who are familiar with your research.

Short-listed candidates will be invited to do an online interview. We will supply questions to candidates prior to the interview.

Any questions can be directed to Ellen Berrey (ellen.berrey@utoronto.ca) and Alex Hanna (alex@dair-institute.org).