Intellectual Property Issues in Cultural Heritage (IPinCH) Post-doctoral Fellowship:

Project Ethnographer

The IPinCH project has a position for a ***Post-doctoral Fellow*** skilled in ethnography and qualitative research, beginning as early as September 2010.

Project description:

Our international multidisciplinary team of archaeologists, anthropologists, lawyers, ethicists, museum specialists, and others is exploring the nature of intellectual property (IP) issues in cultural heritage through a critical theory orientation, seeking examples of good practice and equitable resolution. Using a community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach, our goal is to provide a knowledge base, resources and tools to encourage more equitable and successful terms of research practices and heritage policy development for communities, researchers, and stakeholders.

IPinCH case studies, co-developed with partnering communities, target a variety of on-the-ground IP issues. Information from these studies will flow to our eight thematic Working Groups for creation of innovative tools and resources, and for further analysis and dissemination. These and other initiatives also contribute to our Knowledge Base, an online, searchable repository and archive of research materials and results.

The IPinCH project is funded by the Major Collaborative Research Initiative (MCRI) program of the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). The Project Director, Prof. George Nicholas (nicholas@sfu.ca), is based in the Archaeology Department at Simon Fraser University, in Burnaby, near Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

For more information about the IPinCH project, its team members and objectives, see: www.sfu.ca/ipinch, [Project Description,](#) [Research Team](#) and [Working Groups](#).

Job Description:

With more than fifty academic researchers, twenty-five partnering organizations, and up to fifteen case studies spanning the globe, the role of the IPinCH ethnographer will be to trace actions and knowledge flows, critically analyzing them to gain an in depth understanding of our project, and to assist our project, our partners, our stakeholders, our funder, and others involved in similar research projects.

To accomplish this, the ethnographer will engage in such activities as:
- reviewing the history of the development of the IPinCH project;
- monitoring the relationships of IPinCH to SSHRC, to SFU and other institutions, and to participating communities and other organizations, and to examine how those relationships develop over the course of the project;
- documenting the issues arising from the different levels of university and community ethics review as team members develop their case studies;
- analyzing the dynamics of the IPinCH team (including the Steering Committee, Working Groups; case studies, students, and partners);

- observing what is working/not working with, for example, Working Groups or use of our website, to assist the Steering Committee with refining the course of the project;
- tracking how the project is perceived by outside entities, including various stakeholders;
- and otherwise implementing an ethnographic data gathering strategy to document and provide critical reflections on the experiences, processes and impacts of IPinCH research.

The ethnographer will have opportunities to interact with individual team members, case study teams, Working Groups, students, the Steering Committee, and IPinCH personnel, as well as to attend project meetings and events where project initiatives are discussed and results disseminated. The ethnographer will also have access to documents relating to project development; to current policies and procedural manuals; to the Knowledge Base; to all Working Group forums; and to all project outputs. Finally, the ethnographer will serve as a de facto Working Group liaison, facilitating communication among the groups.

A travel allowance will be provided to enable the ethnographer to meet with team members and attend some important project meetings or events. However, the expectation is that most interaction will be done by telephone or videoconferencing.

This is an excellent opportunity for freshly minted PhDs interested in CBPR, ethnography, the cultural and legal aspects of heritage protection, the ethics of social science research, and both the theoretical and applied nature of issues related to cultural knowledge to engage with senior scholars who have similar interests.

Eligibility:

Applications are welcome from those holding a recent PhD degree in social sciences or law with experience working on ethnographic explorations of large organizations or research projects, in critical ethnography, or in community-based participatory research (CBPR). A background in anthropology, archaeology, law, ethics or museum studies, and experience on international projects, in multidisciplinary contexts, and with Indigenous groups would be beneficial but is not required. The successful candidate is expected to have excellent communication skills, and competency in ethnographic research methods, and in evaluating multi-sectoral research methods and group dynamics.

Conditions of employment:

Our funder, SSHRC, permits us to pay Post-doctoral Fellows $31,500 annually. Researchers holding a SSHRC Post-doctoral Fellowship ($38,000 per annum plus a research allowance of up to $4,000) are not eligible for an IPinCH-funded Fellowship.

Please consult the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section for more information.

For additional information, please contact George Nicholas, Project Director (nicholas@sfu.ca or 778-782-5709). To apply, please provide a statement of interest, CV, sample of writing or innovative dissemination, and the names of three academic references.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Who can receive Post-doctoral Fellowship stipends from IPinCH?
SSHRC will permit IPinCH to provide stipends to Canadian PhD-holders, or to non-Canadian researchers at Canadian institutions, provided the researchers are in the early stages of their careers and do not hold SSHRC Fellowships.

Can non-Canadians apply for an IPinCH Post-doctoral Fellowship?
Non-Canadian researchers may receive a SSHRC stipend through a Canadian institution, if they are eligible for a Canadian work visa, which can be obtained at the border with an letter offering employment and proof of a graduate degree, provided there are no other barriers (criminal convictions, etc.).

Can I hold a SSHRC Post-doctoral Fellowship and receive an IPinCH stipend?
No, SSHRC regulations will not permit IPinCH to award stipends to students holding SSHRC Fellowships.

How much are SSHRC Fellowships?
As of 2010, SSHRC Fellowships are $38,000 plus up to $5,000 for research costs.

For more information, see the SSHRC website (http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/site/apply-demande/researchers-chercheurs-eng.aspx).

How much are IPinCH Fellowships?
SSHRC will not permit IPinCH to award Fellowships at the same level they provide. We can award $31,500 annually for a Post-doctoral Fellowship, plus up to $4,000 total travel funds.