Fellowship in Human Rights, Inequality, and the Future of Work

The Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice at the University of Texas at Austin, an interdisciplinary human rights center housed in the School of Law, seeks applications for a post-doctoral or research fellowship beginning July 1, 2021 and running through July 30, 2022. Applicants from all countries and relevant disciplines are welcome to apply.

The fellow, working closely with the Center’s co-directors and staff, will provide intellectual and administrative leadership for a multi-year project on human rights and economic inequality, which will be entering its seventh year. The project examines structural drivers of economic inequality; how law might create, accentuate, or ameliorate forms of unequal distribution; and the capacity of economic inequality, as a dominant analytical or orienting frame, to capture the racial, gendered, and colonial patterns of accumulation and the reproduction of power and wealth over time. Much of our focus next year will be the continuation of an interdisciplinary project on “Beyond the Future of Work,” which approaches conceptions of work and livelihood from a variety of critical lenses, including racial capitalism.

The fellow will be involved in the daily operation of the Center, particularly in relation to the “Beyond the Future of Work” project. Academic and administrative responsibilities may include:

- Researching and drafting reports and white papers;
- Authoring and editing academic publications;
- Assisting in grant writing and reporting;
- Organizing speaker events, a conference, or other public events;
- Networking with academics, activists, and policymakers in multiple regions;
- Supervising student research;
- Teaching or co-teaching a seminar.

Candidates should have advanced graduate training; significant research experience; strong organizational, writing, and verbal communication skills; and an interest in critical analysis of human rights and social justice, especially in relation to questions of labor and livelihood.

Ideally, the appointment will begin July 1, 2021 but the start date is negotiable. The fellow will receive a competitive stipend commensurate with experience (between $52,000—$55,000), as well as health insurance, full use of UT facilities, and office space at the Law School. The fellow is required to be in residence in Austin. The fellow may not hold any other appointment during the fellowship period. Preference will be given to applicants who have received a PhD, JD, or equivalent law degree by the start date.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis, beginning April 22, 2021. Application packages should include the following materials: cover letter; CV; graduate transcripts (unofficial and scanned are acceptable); personal statement about relevant research and practical experience (no more than 500 words); writing sample (no more than 7000 words); a list of three references, including at least two academic references, who will be submitting letters of recommendation; and three letters of recommendation, preferably received within a week of your application submission. Any questions, and all materials (in PDF format), should be sent to Sarah Eliason, Rapoport Center Assistant Director, saliason@law.utexas.edu.