

September 2022

Assistant Professor Bann-Seng Tan is looking one fixed term Postdoctoral Research fellow.

Start-date and duration

The postdoctoral fellow should start in **October 2022** (negotiable). The position is available for **up to 1.5 years, non-renewable**. Subject to performance review, and it last till the end of the Monsoon semester in December 2023.

For Full-time, the expected workload is 40 hours per week.

The salary is competitive but contingent on grant funding. Please note that while I can consider remote work, visa sponsorship is not available.

What I am looking for:

A postdoc with a background in Political Science/International Relations. A substantive research interests in political economy, natural disasters, foreign aid or authoritarianism is preferable. The area of focus is Asia. The substantive focus aside, what matters is your work aptitude and your ability to communicate clearly and concisely.

The work will involve supervision of quantitative data. The postdoc must have methods training. Compulsory skills include: R and/or Stata, text analysis (see [here](#) and [here](#)), Python, GIS coding, web scraping, and econometric analysis.

Applicants for the position should have their Ph.D. in hand or must have completed all their requirements by the date of joining. The PhD should be in one of the following fields, Computer Science, Economics, Political Science or International Relations. I may consider PhD students, affiliated with one of the Ashoka Research Center if there is a match.

Position profile:

The position is associated with Dr. Tan's project on the political economy of natural disasters. He uses established theories in political science to explain how autocrats might react to natural disasters. To bypass the authoritarian state control over their local media, he relies instead on foreign news reports collected from the search engine Lexis Nexis. The Ashoka Library provides a subscription to that search engine.

The postdoc assists Dr Tan in:

- Supervising a team of student undergraduate (from Ashoka University) in data collection;
- literature review;
- cases studies on the political economy of specific natural disaster;
- Webscrapping from relevant news media;
- Creating and maintaining a dataset;
- Conducting auxiliary regression analysis;
- Maintaining a website for the project; and
- preparatory work for a book manuscript.

Apart from executing these tasks, postdocs will of course be expected to

- conduct their own research and work towards publications in international peer-reviewed journals;
- if affiliated with a center, contribute to the center's overall research activities, attend workshops, talks by visiting speakers, and so on.

Application materials:

Interested applicants should send the following:

- a CV (with 3 referees and their contact details).
- please get your referees to send two letters of recommendations separately to me. It is okay to use Interfolio to send those LORs.
- a cover letter specifying your exact quantitative skills (or highlight the methods course you took).
- non-Ashoka applicants should include copies of your degrees and official transcripts.
- writing sample (published or unpublished) that showcases the applicant's ability to write clearly and concisely in their area of expertise. It must have an abstract.
- (optional) a website where the candidate showcases his programming skills.

All materials should be in pdfs. Send all application materials, except for LORs, in a single email to Bannseng.tan@ashoka.edu.in. The subject headline of the email must use this format "Postdoctoral Research fellow: Insert your name here".

Selection process:

To receive full consideration, please apply by **September 30, 2022**.

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted for interviews. After the initial screening, there may be a second round of technical interviews. The selection process shall continue until the position is filled.

Questions regarding the position and the process should be addressed via email to Bannseng.tan@ashoka.edu.in