UCLA Post-Doc Position in demographic modeling/landscape genomics

Dr. Victoria Sork in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UCLA invites applications for a full-time Postdoctoral Scholar position focused on demographic modeling and landscape genomics to understand climate maladaptation in oak populations under future climate scenarios and develop demographic models to evaluate the ecological consequences of that maladaptation. This position is a two-year appointment, contingent upon satisfactory performance after the first year, with a flexible start date as early as August 2026.

Supported by funding from the National Science Foundation, this collaborative project between University of California Los Angeles and University of California Santa Barbara integrates functional phenotypes, demographic modeling, and landscape genomics to study climate maladaptation in two California oak species: coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and valley oak (*Quercus lobata*). Working closely with Victoria Sork and a multidisciplinary team that includes ecophysiologist Lee Anderegg and plant ecologist Frank Davis, the postdoctoral scholar will contribute to two complementary research aims. First, they will use growth and mortality data from common garden experiments to build demographic models that quantify the population-level impacts of maladaptation. Second, they will use common garden data to link fitness consequences with predictions from landscape genomic models of climate adaptation. The post-doc will also collaborate on other aspects of the project including an analysis of the genetic basis of climate-associated phenotypes.

The ideal candidate will engage across all phases of the research program, from field sampling and laboratory work to genomic and statistical analyses, as well as manuscript preparation. The position offers opportunities for first-authored publications and co-authorship on collaborative papers. The postdoc will join a dynamic research community, interacting with postdocs and collaborators working on functional genomics, epigenetics, ecophysiology, plant ecology, and climate modeling to advance our understanding of how long-lived tree species respond to climate change.

Qualifications:

- Ph.D. in biology, ecology, environmental science, evolutionary biology, geography, or conservation science with expertise in statistics, genomics, demographic modeling, and/or quantitative genetics.
- Demonstrated computational and statistical experience relevant to the project.
- Good writing skills with demonstrated record of peer-reviewed publications
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively

Prospective candidates are encouraged to email Prof Victoria Sork at vlsork@ucla.edu with a paragraph stating reason for interest and a CV.

Application materials, due when position is formally posted, will include:

1) Cover letter that includes the following information: (i) short personal statement describing your motivation and relevant experience; (ii) specific computational or statistical skills relevant to research; (iii) contact information for three referees.
2) Curriculum Vita
3) Statement of research that includes specific research interests and conservation genomic expertise
4) Statement summarizing your efforts and interest to mentor and promote interest in the sciences.
5) PDFs of 1-3 publications

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status. For the complete University of California nondiscrimination and affirmative action policy see: UC Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action Policy (http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000376/NondiscrimAffirmAct)