The Center for Agro-Food Studies

Organization/Agency: The Center for Agro-Food Studies
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Agency:
The Center for Agro-Food Studies is an organizational initiative that provides a forum of UCSC social science expertise in interdisciplinary agro-food studies and seeks to establish links with academic, professional and public groups in this arena. It complements and extends the work of the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS) and focuses on relationships between political-economic processes, institutional forms of agri-environmental governance, and progressive social change.

Role and objectives of research:
The interns will work to collect information on organized urban gardening projects in the San Francisco Bay area and Los Angeles. One intern will specifically focus on the Bay Area including projects in the counties of San Francisco County, San Mateo County, Santa Clara County, Alameda County, and Contra Costa, and Marin County. The other intern will focus on Los Angeles County, Orange County, San Bernardino County, Riverside County and Ventura County. The intern will use internet and phone based research to identify and describe the characteristics of urban agriculture projects that are collectively organized. Interns will also work to map this information and analyze this against socio-economic data. Finally, interns will be asked to do initial research on the policies of localities that support these programs. This research will go towards the documentation and study of the growth of urban gardening in the state, as well as analyzing obstacles to its promotion.

Tasks to be performed:
1) Each intern will aim to collect a complete survey of all groups in the study area. Information collected will include:
   1. Name of group (if they have one)
   2. Address
3. How many gardeners
4. Contact person
5. Contact information – email and phone number
6. Mission – what do they want to address? How do they frame problems?
7. Year founded/started

2) Map the location of the gardens.
   1. Use GIS to examine the locations and spatial patterns of garden development.

3) What laws and ordinances do the governments in which these gardens are situated have on urban agriculture?

4) Do two hrs per week of related reading on urban agriculture and food organizing.

Prerequisites:

• Commitment to respectful communication with community actors and respect for community based knowledges.
• Comfortable emailing and talking with community activists, government officials and non-profit professionals.
• Willingness to spend many hours doing internet and phone based research.
• Strong organizational and written skills.
• Motivated and driven individual interested in research design and implementation.
• Dependable, punctual in maintaining a professional demeanor in all oral or written correspondence.
• GIS training and experience.
• Ideas for goals and training they would like to receive in the internship.

If interested, please send an introductory email and CV or resume to Michelle Glowa kglowa@ucsc.edu.

Please note that interns will be working closely and under the direct supervision of K. Michelle Glowa, a 3rd year PhD student.