



New Postdoctoral Position at UCLA

Tropical Ecology and Climate Change: Consequences of Altered Root Nutrient Uptake for Soil Carbon Stabilization

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
1255 BUNCHE HALL
405 HILGARD AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90095-1524
(310) 825-1071 FAX (310) 206-5976

Postdoctoral Position: The Department of Geography at UCLA seeks a postdoctoral research associated (2-5 years) for newly funded research on root and soil carbon dynamics in tropical forests. Belowground processes present one of the largest sources of uncertainty inhibiting our ability to predict carbon cycle responses to climate change. *This project examines how changes in rainfall in tropical forests alter the transfer of carbon from living plant roots into long-term soil organic matter pools, with an emphasis on the interacting effects of nutrient availability and soil moisture.* The research will take place across a series of tropical forest sites in Panama, and will use rainfall reduction structures and a greenhouse experiment. These cross-scale measures will be used in a plant-nutrient/soil-carbon model with the NASA Jet Propulsion Lab to predict how tropical forest carbon storage will respond to reduced rainfall globally. This project undertakes fundamental research on tropical rainforest belowground dynamics, and applies this research in modeling efforts to advance predictive understanding of complex environmental systems in the context of climate change. The project is a new Department of Energy award. For questions or more information please contact Daniela Cusack (dcusack@geog.ucla.edu; <http://cusacklab.geog.ucla.edu/research.html>).

Qualifications: Applications are encouraged from outstanding candidates who are experienced in ecosystem ecology and who work well independently. Applicants should have skills in the following: **(1) field research, (2) biogeochemistry and/or analytical chemistry, (3) applied ecological statistics.** Applicants should also have interest or experience in working with ecosystem-scale models. Applicants must have completed a PhD in ecology or related field prior to appointment. Successful candidates will have an excellent publication record, proven quantitative and lab skills, interest in living abroad for extended periods, proficiency in Spanish, and ability to drive a 4-wheel drive manual transmission truck. Candidates should be available to start by January, 2017.

To Apply: Candidates should email (*in a single PDF file*) a cover letter, CV, one-page statement of research interests, and the names and contact information of three references to Daniela Cusack (dcusack@geog.ucla.edu). Please indicate "Panama Postdoc" in the subject line. Review of applications will begin June 20th, 2016, and position will remain open until filled.

UCLA is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants must be authorized to work in the United States at the time of employment. The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 requires the University to verify the identity and work authorization of the successful applicant. *Any offer of employment is contingent upon verification.*

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