



Cornell University

**Post-doctoral researcher
Cornell University**

Scientific ambiguity and its consequences

We seek to hire a post-doctoral researcher to advance a project focused on destabilization of knowledge claims, science communication, and organizational strategies in the field of environmental conservation. The empirical focus of the project is the monarch butterfly and new claims that challenge a received wisdom that populations of monarchs are rapidly declining. Other recent data supports the conventional wisdom of declining populations in the face of increasing threats and challenges. As a charismatic terrestrial invertebrate, and because of spectacular fidelity exhibited in its long distance migration (>5000 km) across North America and its choice of host plant, the monarch enjoys a status as a conservation icon. As an icon, this butterfly plays a role in public and policy-oriented communication; it may also serve to structure organizational programming in both cognitive and strategic terms. We seek to study how individuals and organizations respond to knowledge claims and counter-claims and engage with biological science and scientists. The successful candidate will draw on and contribute to literatures on science studies, science communication, sociology of science, environmental sociology and/or other related fields. Interest in reading and interpreting the biological literature relating to the monarch's ecology would be helpful.

The position has been funded by the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future (www.acsf.cornell.edu) to an interdisciplinary group of Cornell professors (Bruce Lewenstein, Steven Wolf, and Anurag Agrawal). The position is for one year, but we can imagine making applications for follow-on funding. Starting date is January 2014. Please send a single PDF file with cover letter, CV, writing sample, and names and email addresses of three references to acsf-sbf@cornell.edu. Review of applications will begin September 1, 2013 and will continue until the position is filled.

This position is located in Ithaca, NY. Cornell University is an innovative Ivy League university and a great place to work. Our inclusive community of scholars, students and staff impart an uncommon sense of larger purpose and contribute creative ideas to further the university's mission of teaching, discovery and engagement. Diversity and inclusion have been and continue to be a part of our heritage. Cornell University is a recognized EEO/AA employer and educator.