CIMMS Research Scientist – Social Scientist Liaison: Warn-on-Forecast and NWS

The Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies (CIMMS) seeks to fill a Research Scientist position for its collaborative research as a Cooperative Institute with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) and the NOAA Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Norman, Oklahoma. The Research Scientist will contribute to NSSL's Warn-on-Forecast (WoF) program and serve as a liaison between NSSL and the broader NOAA National Weather Service community.

Background:
The vision of the WoF program is to develop, test, and transition to operations a probabilistic storm-scale, ensemble-based forecast system with the goal of providing continuous forecast guidance between the 'watch-to-warning' temporal and spatial scales for threats related to severe and hazardous convective weather, e.g., tornadoes, large hail, damaging winds, and extreme rainfall. An experimental WoF system has recently been developed and is just beginning its testing phase. This system is envisioned to be a primary driver of a new NWS forecast paradigm known as FACETs, or Forecasting a Continuum of Environmental Threats. Given that the ultimate goal is the transition of a WoF prototype system to operations, it is important that the probabilistic forecast guidance provided by the system is usable and useful to forecasters and other stakeholders. Qualitative and quantitative research within operational Weather Forecast offices and the National Center for Environmental Prediction is needed to provide end-to-end insights on the usability of various WoF applications within users' environments. Such research will provide operations-to-research feedback that will be used to enhance the system for use by forecasters and other stakeholders.

Responsibilities:
The incumbent will design and conduct studies within NOAA NWS offices and centers to explore and test operational usability to include aspects such as: 1) visualization, 2) perceptions, understanding, and use of probabilistic forecast guidance and related uncertainty information, 3) the communication of this information to partners, and 4) identification of operational opportunities for (or concerns about) applying probabilistic information within the WFO and broader NWS infrastructure. In this role, a primary responsibility of the incumbent will be to coordinate the experimental use of the WoF system with NWS leaders and travel to and conduct research within NWS offices and centers. Throughout the research process, the incumbent will collaborate with other social scientists, model developers, and stakeholders to contribute toward the production of a WoF system prototype ready for transfer to operations. Additional responsibilities include publishing findings in peer-reviewed literature and presenting at conferences.

Required Qualifications:

1. A Ph.D. in one or more of the following fields: Cognitive Psychology/Industrial Engineering/Human Factors; Communication; Anthropology/Ethnography; and/or Science and Technology Studies.
2. Research experience designing and conducting studies to observe and elicit feedback from individuals within Weather Forecast Offices or centers.
3. Ability to coordinate experimental activities with the NOAA NWS and travel to NWS offices or centers to conduct research.
4. Experience conducting data collection and analysis in a collaborative environment (i.e., observation, user evaluation, etc.).
5. Excellent oral and written communication skills (including papers published in or submitted to refereed journals).
6. An ability to work both independently and cooperatively with others.

The beginning salary will be based on qualifications and experience with benefits provided through The University of Oklahoma (https://hr.ou.edu/Employees/New-Employees-at-OU/OU-Benefits-Overview). The start date for the position is negotiable.

To apply, please forward your resume, cover letter and contact information for three references to:

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ATTN: Social Scientist Liaison: Warn-on-Forecast and NWS