

**Postdoctoral Position in
Sustainability & Social Innovation
Departments of Natural Resource Sciences and Management
McGill University
Montreal, Canada**

The Bennett lab, in collaboration with the Office of the Principal, at McGill University is recruiting a Postdoctoral Associate to pursue applied research at the interface of sustainability, social innovation, and social-ecological transformation. We are seeking exceptional early-career scholars committed to connecting interdisciplinary research and knowledge of best practices to important sustainability challenges.

About the position

The postdoc will focus on applying transformation theory to understand successful sustainability initiatives at McGill that could be scaled up to influence sustainability at larger scales (at McGill, in Montreal, at other Universities across Canada, and globally). The postdoc will work with the [Sustainability Office](#) of McGill University to identify a number of 'bright spot' sustainability initiatives that have been implemented on campus. Exploration of campus initiatives will begin with the Sustainability Office's database of projects they have funded over the past decade ([Sustainability Projects Fund](#)). The postdoc will analyze these and other initiatives at McGill to learn why they are successful, what is their potential for contributing to larger-scale social-ecological transformation, and what appropriate strategies exist for scaling up the diverse set of initiatives, and for improving our ability to foster other initiatives.

The ideal candidate will hold a PhD in Geography, Management, Natural Resources, or a related field; have experience with social innovation and transformation theory, be comfortable working on applied questions and collaborating with practitioners and managers, be creative, and possess strong analytical skills. Candidates should also have strong communication (spoken and written) and interpersonal skills, and the ability to work independently and as part of a team.

The postdoc will be supervised by Drs. Elena Bennett and Ciara Raudsepp-Hearne, and work closely with McGill's [Office of Sustainability](#) and the Office of the Principal. We expect the postdoc will develop additional collaborations with social innovation and transformation theory scholars and practitioners internal and external to the University.

The position is available for 2 years, with an annual stipend of \$45,000 per year, and a discretionary fund to support research costs and travel. Postdocs will also have opportunities for professional development (e.g., media and communications training). Expected start date is Winter/Spring 2018.

Project Context

This project is related to a [Future Earth](#)-funded initiative '[Bright Spots: Seeds of Good Anthropocenes](#)', which is a collaboration led by McGill University in Canada, the Stockholm Resilience Centre at Stockholm University in Sweden, and the Centre for Complex Systems in Transition (CST) at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. The project is being implemented at

different scales, from local to global, with the aim of counterbalancing current dystopic visions of the future with positive visions of futures that are socially and ecologically desirable, just, and sustainable. These futures are composed of elements already in existence, which we call “seeds”, which could combine in unique and surprising ways to create a sustainable future if they were to be scaled up in an important way. Identifying where these elements of a Good Anthropocene currently exist on the planet, and understanding how and why they occur, can help us envision how people might help these seeds grow into new, positive futures for the Earth and humanity.

There is scope within this project to collaborate with other ‘bright spots’ projects and team members in Montreal, Sweden and South Africa.

Application

To apply, please submit the following by email to elena.bennett@mcgill.ca using **Sustainability & Social Innovation PDF APPLICATION** in the subject line of your email:

1. Cover letter describing your interest in, and fit for, the project
2. Curriculum vitae
3. Research statement
4. Names and contact information of 3 referees

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the positions are filled, but those received by February 16, 2018 will be guaranteed full consideration.

Main responsibilities

The successful candidate will:

- In collaboration with McGill Sustainability Office, select about a dozen sustainability initiatives exhibiting a diversity of successful impacts on campus
- Critically review and assess the impacts of these initiatives and their potential for scaling up (i.e. how and where this could be done)

Specific tasks

- Conceptual work, e.g., develop a framework for transformation towards sustainability that is seeded by individual, successful initiatives, from campus scale to regional – national scales.
- Comparative analysis of selected sustainability initiatives against other similar initiatives in other places or at other institutions, including indicators of success, identification of unique or promising characteristics of McGill initiatives that could scale up or spread
- Identification of promising points of entry within different systems (other institutions, governments at different scales, etc) through which to scale up McGill initiatives, as well as necessary resources or conditions for scaling
- Preparing articles to be published in international academic journals.