Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in the UBC Department of Geography - GIS, Geospatial Big Data and Digital Geohumanities

The Department of Geography at The University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver campus, invites applications for the position of Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) with a specialization in Geospatial Big Data and Digital Geohumanities, to enhance existing departmental strengths in human geography. This position is expected to be a full-time, tenure-stream appointment made at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor. The successful applicant will have a Ph.D. degree and will be an emerging scholar who is active in their field of research and whose profile and research proposal both meet CRC program criteria and demonstrates an excellent fit with institutional strategic goals and the aims of the position. The Chair will be expected to maintain an outstanding program of research, to teach at the undergraduate and graduate levels, to supervise undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows, and to contribute to service at the departmental level and beyond.

We seek a scholar specializing in the interactions between a) methodological innovations in Big Data, visual methodologies, or the cybernetic posthuman assemblages of the 'Internet of Things,' and b) social, legal, or institutional aspects of changing politics of knowledge production enabled by new geovisualization technologies deployed by corporations, governments, and social movements. The ideal candidate will have an established and innovative program of research that advances geographical and interdisciplinary perspectives and contributes to UBC's strategic priorities and new initiatives in other units and programs such as First Nations and Indigenous Studies, the Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Social Justice, Sociology, the Bachelor of Media Studies, and the Science and Technology Studies Program.

The candidate must demonstrate teaching excellence in one or more of the following areas: digital humanities methods; GIS and society; spatial statistics; API programming techniques and social media analytics; data mining methods and Big Data; and cartography and geospatial data visualization.

The Canada Research Chairs Program supports outstanding researchers in areas that will further UBC’s strategic research plan. The successful candidate should remain eligible to hold a Tier 2 CRC following approximately 12-18 months from their proposed UBC appointment start date. All Chair nominations are subject to review and final approval by the CRC Secretariat.

To meet the criteria of the CRC program, Tier 2 nominees must be excellent emerging world-class researchers who have demonstrated particular research creativity; have demonstrated the potential to achieve international recognition in their fields in the next five to ten years; as chairholders, have the potential to attract, develop and retain excellent trainees, students and future researchers; and be proposing an original, innovative research program of high quality.
Tier 2 chairs are intended for exceptional emerging scholars. Applicants who are more than 10 years from having earned their highest degree (and where career breaks exist, such as maternity, parental or extended sick leave, clinical training, etc.) may have their eligibility for a Tier 2 chair assessed through the program’s Tier 2 justification process. Please consult the Canada Research Chairs website for full program information, including further details on eligibility criteria: www.chairs-chaires.gc.ca and http://www.chairs-chaires.gc.ca/program-programme/nomination-mise_en_candidature-eng.aspx.

The CRC in Geospatial Big Data will join the Faculty of Arts, home to over twenty Canada Research Chairs across a wide range of humanities and social science units. UBC Arts is a Faculty of distinction and excellence in both teaching and research, and UBC Geography has been ranked in the top 5 Geography Departments worldwide. For more information about the Faculty of Arts, visit www.arts.ubc.ca and for information about the Department of Geography, visit http://www.geog.ubc.ca.

Applications are to be submitted through the UBC Faculty careers website (http://www.hr.ubc.ca/careers/faculty-careers/). Applicants should be prepared to upload (in the following order): a curriculum vitae, a sample of their publications, evidence of teaching ability and effectiveness, a description of current and proposed research, a statement identifying their contributions, or potential contributions, to diversity, along with their ability to work with a culturally diverse student body, and contact information for at least four potential referees from whom confidential letters of assessment can be obtained.

Inquiries about the position may be addressed to the chair of the search committee, Dr. Ian McKendry, ian.mckendry@geog.ubc.ca. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. This position is subject to final budgetary approval. The anticipated start date for this position is July 1, 2018. The closing date for applications is September 18, 2017. Only complete applications will be considered by the committee.