

ALEX TREBEK POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP: CHANGING GLOBAL ORDERS

- **Type:** Postdoctoral Fellowship
- **Start date:** Flexible (but ideally Fall 2020)
- **Duration:** One and half year fellowship
- **Salary range:** \$45,000, plus benefits, per annum
- **Reports to:** Prof. Monica Gattinger, Director, Institute for Science, Society and Policy (ISSP)

Fellowship Description

We are seeking a skilled and enthusiastic Postdoctoral Fellow to pursue an innovative research program focused on the changing interface between global energy markets and domestic energy and climate policy, politics and governance in Canada.

The successful candidate will be part of the Alex Trebek Forum for Dialogue's new project entitled *Changing Orders: Shaping the Future and Securing Rights in a World in Transformation*, described below. The postdoctoral fellow will be supervised by Professor Monica Gattinger and hosted by the [Institute for Science, Society and Policy \(ISSP\)](#), one of the four centres leading the Changing Orders project.

This postdoctoral fellowship has a dual focus. It is intended to generate original research and contribute to policy and governance responses to pressing international issues facing Canada and the international community. As such, applicants are encouraged to propose creative ideas for how they plan to contribute to new knowledge on the evolving global order of energy markets and their interface with domestic energy and climate governance, and to describe how they are positioned to contribute to policy interventions on these issues. The latter may include policy briefs, policy proposals, expert briefs, op-eds, and the organization of policy roundtables, among others.

We are particularly interested in proposals that build on the established track-record of the ISSP's Energy Research and Engagement Cluster, notably its flagship [Positive Energy](#) program, which uses the convening power of the university to bring together university researchers and key decision-makers from the public, private and civil society sectors to identify how to strengthen public confidence in energy decision-making in an age of climate change. Proposals that focus on the evolving place of oil and gas in global energy markets, the rise of technologies to reduce global GHG emissions, and the interface of these developments with the policy and politics of domestic energy imperatives (economic, environmental, and security) are particularly encouraged, as are proposals addressing these issues in the light of polarization over energy and climate issues in Canada. As such, a background in political economy, public policy, international relations, or commerce will be highly relevant to this fellowship.

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It is expected that this postdoctoral work will result in a number of outputs by the end of the fellowship. Research outputs (e.g., policy recommendations and framework proposals) will be disseminated through a series of publications, white papers and other knowledge mobilization activities. The supervisor will also work with the successful applicant to identify opportunities to contribute to the ongoing policy engagement of the ISSP.

The successful candidate will be registered as a [postdoctoral fellow at the University of Ottawa](#) and will enjoy all associated privileges. The individual will have a strong background in political economy or a related field, and a demonstrated ability to engage with complex policy debates at the interface of global and domestic energy and climate issues.

About the Project

The Postdoctoral Fellow will join a dynamic research and practice community focused on the rapidly changing global order. Bringing together leading research centres and institutes at the University of Ottawa, and financially supported by the Alex Trebek Forum for Dialogue, Changing Orders seeks to reveal the fundamental dynamics underlying today's governance and human rights challenges – at the national and global levels – and to generate new and innovative ideas and policy responses to them. The initiative will mobilize cutting-edge research and networks of decision-makers from a variety of fields to analyse these challenges and co-produce effective solutions. It will also build upon and amplify cutting-edge public interest policy interventions being conducted by project partners at both the domestic and international levels.

The *Changing Orders* project builds on the expertise of [the Centre for International Policy Studies \(CIPS\)](#), [the Human Rights Research and Education Centre \(HRREC\)](#), [the University of Ottawa Refugee Hub](#), and [the Institute for Science, Society and Policy \(ISSP\)](#). The project aims to address two fundamentally important questions: 1) How to secure multilateral cooperation and inclusive and durable democracies in the face of political and technological change; and 2) How to secure fundamental human rights in the face of challenges to the rules-based international order.

This postdoctoral fellowship will focus primarily on the first of these themes, specifically the influence of global energy market dynamics in oil/gas and emerging low-emissions technologies on domestic energy and climate policy, politics and governance. Globally, energy markets are highly dynamic, with oil and gas supply wars spurred by multiple factors (notably the shale revolution), long term demand for oil and gas uncertain (all the more so in the wake of COVID-19), and the advance of multiple emerging and disruptive technologies to address climate change. Policies to address climate change – both new policy directions and policy reversals – add to uncertainty and volatility in energy markets. For Canada, a western industrialized federal democracy with a large oil and gas resource base and ambitious climate targets, positioning itself in this broader energy/climate context raises a complex set of political, policy and governance challenges. Identifying a path forward for energy and climate that is inclusive, durable and democratic is one of the largest challenges facing the country.

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Building on and expanding the innovative energy research at the ISSP, the project examines 'changing orders' within and between global energy markets and domestic energy and climate politics, policy and governance. For the last five years, the Institute's Energy Cluster has focused predominantly on 'changing orders' in domestic policy and regulation for energy and related climate issues, with a particular emphasis on strengthening public confidence in decision-making processes for energy projects, policies and regulation. This research has underscored the lack of clarity in Canada over the future role of oil and gas in the country's domestic and export economies, and, more broadly, the lack of a clear national vision for the country's energy future in an age of climate change. The Changing Orders project will help to position these challenges in the context of global energy market dynamics, a link that is rarely investigated comprehensively in Canada. In so doing, the project aims to identify new means and methods to secure inclusive, durable and democratic governance for energy and climate issues in the face of political and technological change.

Position Requirements

- Doctoral degree in public policy, political economy or related field, e.g., political science, public administration, business, economics (PhD must be awarded prior to the appointment taking place). Preference will be given to candidates with doctorates awarded in the last 5 years, but all candidates will be considered.
- Research experience, preferably in energy, international relations and policy.
- English proficiency.

Additionally, the following skills will be considered as assets:

- Bilingualism (English and French).
- Scholarship on relevant topics.
- Experience with knowledge mobilization (translation and exchange).
- Prior involvement with public policy processes relating to global and domestic energy and climate issues.

If the start date for this position is affected either by the candidate being under COVID-19-related travel restrictions or the campus being closed, remote working options can be negotiated.

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How to apply

Please apply by sending your application to [Rafael Dezordi](#). Your application should include the following:

- a cover letter,
- a complete curriculum vitae,
- a two-page (max.) statement of interest describing your research interests relevant for this position and capability to contribute to related policy and governance responses at the domestic and international levels.

The selection committee will start to review applications on November 15. Applications will be considered until a successful candidate is found. We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those under consideration for the role will be contacted.

The cover letter shall indicate the level of proficiency in English and French.

The University of Ottawa is an equal opportunity employer. We strongly encourage applications from women, Indigenous people, persons with disabilities and members of visible minorities.

In keeping with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada requirements, all qualified persons are invited to apply. All applicants will be considered, but preference will be given to Canadian Citizens, permanent residents of Canada, and people holding (or eligible to hold) a valid work permit. The cover letter should confirm the immigration status of the candidate.

In keeping with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, the University of Ottawa will provide accommodations upon request during the recruitment, selection and assessment process for candidates with a disability.