Position Title: Research Coordinator - Decolonizing Democracy  
Organization: People Powered: Global Hub for Participatory Democracy  
Location: Remote  
Stipend: $62,500 in the first year, $65,000 in the second year, plus health insurance and professional development funding  
Start Date: September 2022

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

People Powered is a global hub for participatory democracy. Our mission is to expand people’s power to make government decisions, by supporting organizations and governments that are building participatory democracy around the world. We are pushing global practices of democracy beyond elections, toward more participatory governance models in which community members make the policy decisions that affect their lives. We coordinate global communications, research, resources, training, and mentorship programs that support and expand participatory governance initiatives such as participatory budgeting, participatory policy-making, and citizens’ assemblies. Together with our dozens of member organizations around the world, we aim to shift governing power toward historically marginalized communities, especially in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. To learn more, visit peoplepowered.org.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Research Coordinator - Decolonizing Democracy will convene and support international research networks on participatory democracy, with a focus on researchers in the Global South, as part of our work to decolonize democracy research. Democracy research has mostly focused on the dominant western model of electoral representative government, a model that is widely losing trust and failing to address people’s needs. Most democracy reform aims to reinforce this flawed system, but a growing global community of activists, government officials, and researchers are turning to participatory democracy, to make government more responsive and equitable. Thousands of local, regional, and national governments are enabling residents to propose and decide on public spending and policies. Research indicates that this increases understanding of and trust in government, builds and transforms community relationships, directs resources to communities with greater needs, and inspires long term civic leadership. Though many participatory democracy practices emerged in the Global South, much of the recognized research on them has come from the Global North.

The Research Coordinator will help to shift democracy research beyond the dominant western model and to shift attention and resources toward participatory democracy researchers in the Global South, supporting international research boards and partnerships in implementing collaborative projects that advance a shared research agenda for participatory democracy. The Research Coordinator will coordinate our existing Global Participatory Budgeting Research Board, help build new research boards and research partnerships for other participatory democracy practices, and connect together these related but often separate research communities. They will make this collaborative research more visible, accessible, and impactful. The Research Coordinator will report to People Powered’s Director of Partnerships and will work closely with other staff and our global research board and research partners. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

This position is only available through the Leading Edge Fellowship program. You may not contact the host institution to inquire about this position.
Responsibilities and tasks:

- Facilitate global research boards and collaborative research projects, for participatory budgeting and other participatory democracy practices, with focus on Global South researchers.
- Forge connections and collaboration between research communities working on different participatory practices, with focus on Global South researchers.
- Produce communications content (blog posts, articles, info sheets, etc.) and events (webinars, seminars, etc.) that amplify research findings and make them more accessible in diverse regions.

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or humanistic social sciences. Read more about eligible fields in our FAQ;
- Experience coordinating international or regional research teams, projects, or committees;
- Experience packaging research findings into data, materials, and content that is useful for activists and advocates;
- Excellent communication, relationship-building, and teamwork skills, including the ability to facilitate and support collaborative projects with people from diverse cultures, being mindful about cultural differences and power dynamics;
- Excellent project management skills, including the ability to organize, prioritize, and effectively delegate work;
- Excellent writing skills, including the ability to communicate complex information in clear, compelling, and accessible ways that translate well across languages and contexts;
- Interest in democracy, governance, and civic engagement;
- Alignment with People Powered’s mission and values.

Preferred:

- Proficiency in at least one other language besides English;
- Experience living and working in the Global South;
- Experience researching or working with participatory programs;
- Strong computer skills, including proficiency with G Suite.

APPLICATIONS

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: https://www.acls.org/competitions/acls-leading-edge-fellowships/
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: March 28, 2022, 9pm EDT