



Food Learning and Growing Partnership (FLOW) PhD Position Recruitment

Background: The Food, Learning and Growing (FLOW) Partnership aims to advance sustainable food system transformation at the regional scale. The Partnership involves eight regional research teams spanning four continents, and an international network of researchers, practitioners, and community partners. Our research will map and monitor how specific practices impact the social, environmental, and economic factors as we work to build increasingly just, equitable, ecological and circular regional food systems.

Each FLOW Research Team is working with multi-actor groups to address priorities in their Regions. The 8 Regions and their foci include the following:

- **Montreal, QB:** focus on food security, partners with Dawson College and Conseil SAM (Système alimentaire Montréalais);
- **Ottawa, ON:** focus on impacts of Just Food Community Farm, including its many innovations, and development of Food Strategy for Ottawa, key partners include Carleton University and Just Food;
- **Vancouver Island, BC:** focus on bioregional food systems, partners with Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Round Table, and North Okanagan Land to Table Network;
- **Northwest Territories:** focus on traditional food systems and climate change, partners with Laurier, the Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation, and Ecology North;
- **Southern Brazil:** focus on traditional erva-mate agroforestry, key partners include the State University of Ponta Grossa, Embrapa, the Strategic Council for Traditional and Agroecological Erva-Mate Production Systems; CEDErva;
- **Migori County, Kenya:** focus on indigenous crop production with women and youth, partners with Rongo University, the Nyanam Ratek Tich Women Group, Oywa Ngori and Radio Milambo;
- **Melbourne region, Australia:** focus on municipal and regional food policy, partners with the University of Melbourne and the City of Melbourne;
- **Veracruz State, Mexico,** focus on agroecological citrus production, partners with the University of Guelph, Universidad Autonoma Chapingo, Huerta Madre "Grupo Los Gómez", and Granja Kokopelli.

Learn more about the project: <https://flowpartnership.org/>

Our methodology focuses on community-driven, participatory research approaches, weaving together Sustainable Livelihoods, Community Capitals, and Community Development frameworks to build resilience theory and practice relevant for regions. PhD students will work with and support regional teams and their community partners to co-develop sustainable food system indicators, gather data, write up results, co-create stories, and co-publish findings.

PhD students are key “pollinators” between FLOW Regions acting as conduits for research co-creation, knowledge sharing, and highlighting good practices among research teams. PhD students will conduct research in and support at least two Regional FLOW Teams. Doctoral students will help translate data, experiences, narratives and strategies across the partnership to ensure research findings and outcomes resonate with regional partners.

PhD students will contribute to the Regional and Global Communities of Practice (CoPs) that distinguish the Partnership. The formation of CoPs will further enable FLOW narratives and evidence to reach a wide range of audiences, from sustainable food systems practitioners to governmental, inter-governmental, NGO, decision-makers and policy-shaping actors.

We are hiring for multiple positions to support key thematic areas of the Regional FLOW Teams. PhD positions will be hosted at partnering institutions, and candidates must meet the requirements of the program of the position they are interested in applying to. In addition to university funding packages, The FLOW Partnership offers PhD candidates \$15,000 to support research and travel costs related to the project. An overview of position details are listed below. Detailed postings and application instructions are included on the subsequent pages.

Position 1: Community-scale adaptation through agroecology

- Working primarily with the Ottawa Team and linking to other key regions. Seeking a **domestic applicant** to complete a **PhD in Geography** in the [Department of Geography and Environmental Studies](#) at Carleton University, supervised by [Patricia Ballaminjie](#), with support from [Irena Knezevic](#).

Position 2: Indigenous and Traditional Foodways

- The candidate will work primarily with the NWT Team, linking to other key regions. The candidate will complete a [PhD in Geography](#) at Wilfrid Laurier University, supervised by [Andrew Spring](#).

Position 3: Food Sustainability Narratives

- The candidate will work across regional teams to identify communication strategies and food sustainability narratives. The candidate will complete a [PhD in Communications](#) at Carleton University, co-supervised by [Irena Knezevic](#) and [Kent Mullinix](#) at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (British Columbia).
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Position 1: Community-scale adaptation through agroecology

Seeking a **domestic applicant** to complete a **PhD in Geography** in the [Department of Geography and Environmental Studies](#) at Carleton University, supervised by [Patricia Ballamingie](#), with support from [Irena Knezevic](#).

Benefits include:

- Supervision by an experienced and supportive team;
- Competitive funding package (entrance scholarship dependent on grades + Teaching Assistantship);
- Research assistantship of \$15,000/year for each of 4 years;
- Participation in a SSHRC-funded Partnership Grant, Food Learning and Growing Partnership;
- Involvement in knowledge dissemination (co-authorship, conference presentations); and,
- Integration with an international network of researchers.

Research focus:

- Evaluate agroecology solutions for community-scale adaptation to climate change for greater household and community resilience.
- Explore innovations adaptations across scale, ranging from household production to small- and medium- scale producers to collective/community model/farm;
- Support a Regional and Global Community of Practice (CoP) focused on agroecology solutions for community-scale climate adaptation;
- Assist in Ottawa Region research on Just Food Community Farm, Community Gardening Network, and Ottawa Food Strategy.

Potential research questions: How might agroecological solutions contribute to community-scale adaptation to climate change, and thus resilience? What opportunities and constraints exist with regards to their implementation? How might a Regional and Global Community of Practice (CoP) facilitate their nuanced diffusion (i.e. to diverse cultural and ecological contexts)?

If interested, please send your CV, graduate audit, and a cover letter detailing your interest in food systems, background in qualitative research methods, and any relevant personal attributes, by **November 5, 2024**.

Subject: Food Learning and Growing – PhD RA Application

To: patricia.ballamingie@carleton.ca

A short-list of candidates will be interviewed by the end of November 2024. If selected, you will then need to apply to complete a PhD in Geography at Carleton (beginning September 2025), with supervisory support.

Position 2: Indigenous and Traditional Foodways

Seeking PhD applicants to complete a [PhD in Geography](#) at Wilfrid Laurier University, supervised by [Andrew Spring](#). Working primarily with partners across the NWT, linking to other key regions, specifically Migori County, Kenya.

Benefits include:

- Supervision by an experienced and supportive team;
- Competitive funding package (entrance scholarship dependent on grades + Teaching Assistantship);
- Research assistantship of \$15,000 for the first year, with a possibility of extended funding in subsequent years;
- Involvement in knowledge dissemination (co-authorship, conference presentations); and,
- Integration with an international network of researchers.

Research Focus:

- Document and support Indigenous and Traditional Foodways across FLOW Regions.
- Engage in community-led food systems research across multiple NWT communities.
- Support a Regional and Global Community of Practice (CoP) focused on Indigenous and Traditional Foodways.

Potential research questions: How can Indigenous knowledges be centered in regional food system transformation? How can regional food systems develop in a two-eyed seeing or reconciliation lens?

Application Instructions: If interested, please send your CV, graduate audit, and a cover letter detailing your interest in food systems, background in qualitative and community-based research methods, and any relevant personal attributes, by **December 1, 2024**.

Subject: Food Learning and Growing – PhD RA Application

To: aspring@wlu.ca

A short-list of candidates will be interviewed by January. If selected, you will then need to apply to complete a PhD in Geography at WLU (beginning September 2025), with supervisory support.

Position 3: Food Sustainability Narratives

Seeking a domestic applicant to complete a [PhD in Communication](#) at Carleton University, co-supervised by [Irena Knezevic](#) and [Kent Mullinix](#) at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (British Columbia).

Benefits include:

- Supervision by an experienced and supportive team;
- Competitive funding package (entrance scholarship dependent on grades + Teaching Assistantship);
- Research assistantship of \$15,000 for the first year, with a possibility of extended funding in subsequent years;
- Involvement in knowledge dissemination (co-authorship, conference presentations); and,
- Integration with an international network of researchers.

Research focus:

- Assessing narratives and stories as they emerge across all 8 FLOW Regions to understand effective communication and public relations strategies that help shift the discourse in support of more sustainable, resilient regional food systems.
- Identify successful strategies being applied locally in regional teams which attempt to provide a counter-narrative to the dominant bias that privileges industrial, global solutions.
- Analyzing/comparing approaches in the Global North and Global South.
- Support the Regional and Global Community of Practice (CoP) focused on Communication & Knowledge Mobilization.

Potential research questions: How do we articulate resilience on a regional scale? How might food sustainability narratives shift power in our food system? What does transformation require?

Application Details: If interested, please send your CV, graduate audit, and a cover letter detailing your interest in food systems, background in qualitative research methods, and any relevant personal attributes, by December 1, 2024.

Subject: Food Learning and Growing – PhD RA Application

To: irena.knezevic@carleton.ca

A short-list of candidates will be interviewed in early January. If selected, you will then need to apply to complete a PhD in Communication at Carleton (beginning September 2025), with supervisory support.