Research Assistant
Institute for the Study of Teaching and Learning in the Disciplines and
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

The Simon Fraser University (SFU) Institute for the Study of Teaching and Learning in the Disciplines (ISTLD) invites applications for a Research Assistant appointment for the Decolonizing Teaching project *Decolonizing Labour Studies through Indigenous Literature* to begin 1 February 2019 or earlier.

**Description:** LBST 101 is the key lower division introductory course for the Labour Studies Program. This project will explore decolonizing approaches to Labour Studies through the integration of a novel study as a key component of the course. The project team will generate and review a shortlist of novels by Indigenous writers, and list of supporting texts (articles, book chapters), in order to ensure the best fit with the course and its core themes. The goal is for students to read the chosen novel over the course of a semester, with accompanying texts that help students explore the themes of work and labour in the book, in order to highlight the elision and erasure of First Nations economies and Indigenous labour in much labour research. I am hoping to develop a pedagogical approach to introductory material that creates space for deep engagement with settler colonialism as an ongoing process that is integral to the Canadian economy, capitalism and labour markets. The goal is for students to gain knowledge and understanding, through Indigenous literature as storytelling, of settler colonialism as a system and as lived experience that has implications for both Indigenous peoples and settlers – and to utilize this understanding as a foundation for their analyses of labour, the economy and the labour movement. I also hope that this approach will create an opening for engaging with white supremacy, which (like settler colonialism) creates a great deal of resistance in a classroom setting.

**Research assistant responsibilities include:**
- Generating a literature review of Canadian Indigenous fiction and related supporting texts;
- Creating and updating a Zotero database of texts;
- Generating ideas for teaching activities to support the integration of the texts into the existing LBST 101 course syllabus;
- Analyzing qualitative and quantitative data generated during the piloting of the revised course;
- Supporting dissemination of project findings within and beyond SFU, including the final project report;
- Assisting with data entry and evaluation related to TLDG projects’ progress/tracking; and,
- Attending scheduled team meetings.

**Required qualifications and skills**
- Currently enrolled in a graduate program at SFU. Qualified and experienced undergraduates near completion of their degree may also be considered;
- Some knowledge of, and background in, Canadian Indigenous fiction and Aboriginal Literature as a field; and/or of decolonizing approaches or theories.
- Ability to undertake literature reviews in disciplines beyond own research area.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including strong oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work with faculty and graduate students from a wide range of disciplines;
- Experience with basic qualitative and quantitative data analyses;
- Skilled in use of Microsoft Office suite.

**Experience and skills that would be an asset:**
- Familiarity with reference management software (e.g. Zotero) and database management (e.g. Filemaker);
- Experience with instrument design (such surveys, rubrics, interview protocols, observation protocols/checklists, self-reflection tools);
- Experience with Teaching and Learning research.

**Rate of pay:** $20 - $25/hr (incl. vacation and statutory holiday pay, no medical or dental benefits) - based on experience, qualifications and degree program (MA or PhD). Total appointment hours: 203 hours (Spring 2019 and Summer 2019 semesters)
To Apply: Applicants should submit: (1) a 1-page cover letter structured to address the qualifications, skills, and role responsibilities as listed above, and (2) a 1-2 page résumé with two references listed.

These two items should be organized as one PDF attachment and addressed to Kendra Strauss, and emailed to kstrauss@sfu.ca.

Note: Letters of reference will only be requested from short-listed applicants.

Complete applications received by January 25th, 2019, are assured of full consideration. We appreciate all replies to this position posting, however, we will only contact short-listed applicants.