

Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute: Researcher

Apply by: 4pm Friday 19 September 2014

Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute (SPII) is an independent, non-profit think tank committed to advancing the Constitution and the eradication of poverty and inequality in South Africa and the sub-region.

SPII seeks to appoint a Researcher for the Socio-Economic Rights Monitoring Project, based in Newtown, Johannesburg. The Researcher will play an important role in the development of socio-economic rights monitoring tools and frameworks in South Africa.

This is a one-year fixed-term contract position renewable dependent on funding. Preference will be given to South African candidates, particularly those from historically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Responsibilities:

- Work with the project leader in developing rigorous and comprehensive research reports on the progressive realisation of socio-economic rights (SERs), and ensure reports have maximum impact and contribute to socio-economic rights advocacy in South Africa.
- Carry out in-depth, independent research on policy development around socio-economic rights.
- Develop statistical indicators for socio-economic rights that can be tracked and monitored over time. This will include:
 - Desktop research to identify key reporting formats and indicators that exist, both internationally and domestically;
 - Conducting interviews with right-specific experts, policy makers and civil society organisations;
 - Verification of data sources and ongoing collaboration with statistical agencies and other data sources;
 - Population of indicators and visualisation for presentation in reports.
- Conduct human rights budget analyses for SER Project. This will include:
 - Right-specific budget analysis;
 - National and provincial budget analysis, focusing on SERs;
 - Ongoing collaboration with organisations involved in human rights budget work and advocacy.
- Develop professional research reports and other content for SER Project and SPII publications. Support the dissemination of publications to ensure optimal reach of their findings.
- Engage in regular networking and profile raising of SPII and SER Monitoring Project by participating in relevant workshops, conferences and other stakeholder meetings.
- Identify strategic new areas of enquiry and advocacy for SPII.
- Develop funding proposals and other reports as requested by management.
- Provide ad hoc assistance to other or new work.

Skills and experience required:

- Masters degree in political science, economics, human rights law, development or related field strongly preferred. However, applicants without post-graduate qualifications but with proven experience and ability in the areas listed below will also be considered.
- At least three years work experience and a familiarity working in or with the non-profit sector.
- Experience in professional report writing and conducting independent research.
- Data analysis skills and experience using relevant software (e.g. STATA, SPSS).
- Experience with human rights budget analysis work is desirable.
- Communication skills: confidence to speak in public and with stakeholders.
- Motivated to work independently and as a member of a team.
- Demonstrated ability in taking the initiative and a proactive approach to work.
- Commitment to the values of SPII and a passion for social justice and the realisation of socio-economic rights.
- A valid driver's license is an advantage, the ability to travel is essential.
- Fluency in spoken and written English. An ability to speak at least one African language would be an advantage.

Starting date: Monday 06 October 2014

Salary: R280,000 – R300,000 total cost to company, dependent on qualifications and experience in the sector.

To apply: submit your CV (with relevant information on qualifications and experience and contactable references), two examples of research writing and a motivation letter to fortunate@spii.org.za before 4pm on 19 September 2014. Successful shortlisted candidates will be expected to deliver a short presentation at interview.

All applications will be acknowledged, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

For more information on SPII visit www.spii.org.za.