Research Assistant Opportunity: Data Collection and Cleaning

Project Description:

Professor Ebonya Washington (SIPA/econ) is seeking two undergraduates to work as research assistants on a project whose aim is to collect a comprehensive list of economists who have published papers and journal articles in the field of political economy. By compiling this list, we aim to identify talented individuals from diverse backgrounds in order to expand the membership list and conference participation of the National Bureau of Economics Research (NBER) Political Economy Program. Selected students will work 10-20 hours per week and be paid $22/hour. Work will begin September 5 and will continue through the fall semester.

Job Description:

The required output for this project is a list of economists, their total number of papers published, along with other variables relating to these authors. The successful candidate will assist with cleaning a raw list of economists which will have been scraped and outputted into a long excel file. This will involve carefully checking if unique combinations of authors and their papers are duplicated in the list. One of the reasons why this can be tricky is that papers may be submitted under different titles as a result of having been initially submitted as working papers and then later on with a slightly different title as a final paper. In such cases the abstracts will be a good indicator for similarity. The RA will also be tasked with researching individual authors' affiliations.

Required skills:

We are looking for undergraduates interested in gaining research experience. Those majoring in Economics, Sociology, Political Science, or a related discipline may find the experience particularly valuable, but students from any discipline are welcome to apply. Applicants can be in any year of their program. Selected students will be detail-orientated, time-conscious, responsive to feedback, and will work well independently and as a part of a team. Microsoft Excel proficiency is a must. Familiarity with STATA, Python, and web scraping will be considered an asset.

To Apply:

Please email a resume/CV and a cover letter to bb3180@columbia.edu. In the cover letter, not exceeding one page (single-spaced), please include a brief description of yourself, your interest in the project, and why you would be a good fit for the position. In your email, please indicate whether you are appointed as a Teaching Assistant III (TAIII)or not–both are able to apply. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until both positions are filled