Northwestern University seeks applicants for a post-doctoral research fellow for an 18-month position, starting in the Spring or Summer of 2016. This is a research fellowship working with Dr. Shirin Vossoughi, Dr. Paula Hooper and Meg Escudé.

The research fellow will work on the Learning Through Youth Community Tinkering project funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. The current phase of the project focuses on analyzing an extensive ethnographic data set collected over four years in the Tinkering Afterschool Program, a partnership between the Exploratorium and the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco. This research explores the nature of teaching and learning in after-school tinkering settings, the ways these settings design for equity, and the shifts in thinking, participation and identity that emerge among participants over an extended period of time. Data will be analyzed to identify the specific forms of scientific and artistic thinking and practice that emerge within tinkering/making activities, and the kinds of pedagogy and relationality that support their development.

The post-doctoral research fellow will play a lead role in data analysis under the supervision of Dr. Shirin Vossoughi. Required qualifications include an earned Ph.D. in the Learning Sciences or a related social sciences field (e.g. education, anthropology, psychology, science studies). Preference will be given to a scholar who has experience with ethnographic research and video-based data analysis, and a strong interest in issues of culture and equity. Disciplinary knowledge in Engineering and/or Physics is preferred, as is experience with inquiry based approaches to STEM/STEAM learning. Applicants with a background in the arts, building or making practices are encouraged to apply.

The research will take place at Northwestern University and may include some follow up data collection in San Francisco. The postdoctoral fellow will utilize and develop expertise in ethnographic research methods, video-based interaction analysis, socio-cultural approaches to learning, and participatory design research. The post-doctoral fellow will participate in research group meetings and ongoing professional development opportunities in the target areas of the project. The fellowship includes opportunities to participate in Northwestern’s internationally recognized Learning Sciences program as well as in the intellectual environment of Northwestern more broadly.

For questions and additional information, please contact shirin.vossoughi@northwestern.edu

Compensation: This is a full-time, 18-month position with full benefits. The budget also includes funding for the postdoc to present at an academic conference.

Interested applicants should submit the following materials:

- A cover letter addressing your qualifications and career history, as well as how the postdoctoral position fits with your career goals. The cover letter should include a discussion of your experience and/or approach to analyzing children’s scientific practices and meaning making within learning interactions.
• A Curriculum Vitae
• The names and contact information of three scholars who can serve as references
• Two samples (published or unpublished) of your scholarly work, one of which you identify as a research paper that best represents your potential as a scholar and future career trajectory.

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

Northwestern University is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action employer. Members of historically underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply. Hiring is contingent upon eligibility to work in the US and/or eligibility to obtain the proper visa. Employment eligibility verification required upon hire.