

Hi Economics Seniors,

I'm hiring at least two two-year, full-time post-baccalaureate research assistant positions at Harvard. I am looking for recent graduates with quantitative data analysis skills to help me build and analyze the nation's first dataset of evictions in America.

Both the application deadline and start date are rolling. Some positions may be filled this fall/spring, and some this summer.

If you are interested in working in the Eviction Lab, gaining research experience and helping to generate rigorous evidence that will inform the national conversation and public policy about housing insecurity in America, please consider applying.

Posting:

[https://jobs.brassring.com/tgwebhost/jobdetails.aspx?jobId=1238476&PartnerId=25240&SiteId=5341&type=mail&JobReqLang=1&recordstart=1&JobSiteId=5341&JobSiteInfo=1238476\\_5341&gqid=0](https://jobs.brassring.com/tgwebhost/jobdetails.aspx?jobId=1238476&PartnerId=25240&SiteId=5341&type=mail&JobReqLang=1&recordstart=1&JobSiteId=5341&JobSiteInfo=1238476_5341&gqid=0)

Thanks!

Matt

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Matthew Desmond  
John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences  
Harvard University

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**Harvard University**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Full-time Research Assistant**

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The Department of Sociology at Harvard University seeks applicants with a background in data analysis, economics, quantitative social science, and/or computer science to fill full-time post-baccalaureate research assistant positions in the urban social sciences. Funding is available for up to two years and the position is expected to begin during the fall of 2016. Research assistants will join a new initiative on eviction in America, directed by Professor Matthew Desmond and supported by the Gates Foundation.

The project stems from the fact that little is known about the prevalence and consequences of eviction, yet today the majority of poor renting families in America spend over half of their income on housing costs and eviction is fundamentally transforming low-income communities. This study will build the nation's first database of evictions, consisting of millions of court records combined with neighborhood- and individual-level data. Analyses of this dataset will generate a national estimate of the prevalence of eviction; identify and explain variation in eviction rates across neighborhoods and cities; evaluate the effectiveness of different housing

and eviction laws; and estimate neighborhood and individual-level consequences of housing instability. The findings of this study will inform evidence-based policies designed to prevent eviction and family homelessness, raise awareness of the centrality of housing in the lives of low-income families, and deepen our understanding of the fundamental mechanisms driving poverty in America.

We seek self-driven, creative thinkers with strong quantitative skills to help gather, organize, and analyze eviction data. Successful candidates will be comfortable with data management and advanced computer programming skills. They will write computer code that collects eviction data from court websites around the country; standardize the eviction data; collect and clean and other data, such as crime records; and merge eviction records with the other data sources, at both the individual- and population-level. Research assistants will work with a team of post-doctoral, graduate, and undergraduate researchers to build and explore a national database comprised of millions of eviction records. A working knowledge of the literature on housing instability and urban sociology is not required but useful; an intellectual interest in applying rigorous data to real-world problems is essential.

Salary is competitive and is benefits-eligible. Applicants should submit a dossier including: (1) a complete *vita*, (2) a cover letter of interest, and (3) names and contact information of up to three persons who can serve as references. All materials should be submitted as 1 continuous pdf. Materials submitted by regular mail or email will not be accepted.

For more information, please go to the following link:

[https://jobs.brassring.com/tgwebhost/jobdetails.aspx?jobId=1238476&PartnerId=25240&SiteId=5341&type=mail&JobReqLang=1&recordstart=1&JobSiteId=5341&JobSiteInfo=1238476\\_5341&gqid=0](https://jobs.brassring.com/tgwebhost/jobdetails.aspx?jobId=1238476&PartnerId=25240&SiteId=5341&type=mail&JobReqLang=1&recordstart=1&JobSiteId=5341&JobSiteInfo=1238476_5341&gqid=0)