

**Research Assistantship open in *human-wildlife interactions*  
at Arizona State University, starting August 2025.**

Open call for a Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA) for an incoming PhD student in geography under the supervision of Professor Kelli Larson at Arizona State University's School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning. Starting in August 2025, the RA will work on **human-environment research** related to the social-ecological dynamics of urban wildlife. The RA covers tuition and a stipend plus student benefits.

The GRA is part of an interdisciplinary project funded by the National Science Foundation focused on the social-ecological drivers and outcomes of human-carnivore interactions in Phoenix, AZ, San Francisco–Oakland, CA, Chicago, IL, and Washington, D.C. The team is investigating the spatial and temporal patterns of human-wildlife interactions and associated management strategies to understand and inform conservation and coexistence within and across the study regions. The focal species include coyotes and raccoons. The project is led by the Lincoln Park Zoo in affiliation with the Urban Wildlife Information Network (UWIN). The selected candidate will work with the social science sub-team, especially Kelli Larson (ASU) but also Anita Morzillo (University of Connecticut), Anne Short Gianotti (Boston University), Julie Young (Utah State), and Maureen Murray (Lincoln Park Zoo), but they will have opportunities to interact and collaborate with the broader team.

Planned work for this RA will involve survey data analysis from social science and possibly interdisciplinary social-ecological and/or geospatial perspectives. The chosen student will have some flexibility in their dissertation focus, but elements of the RA project must be a component of a three-paper dissertation. Data collection via a social survey is planned for summer 2025, so the ideal candidate will start engaging with the research before the fall term begins. Applicants should meet the following **qualifications**:

- 1) a proven background in human-wildlife interactions, human-environment geography, human dimensions of wildlife or natural resources, urban ecology, landscape sustainability, and/or related fields;
- 2) demonstrated experience in scholarly research and the associated literature related to one or more of the above fields (ideally including a Master's degree, although this is not required); and,
- 3) experience or a strong interest in social science data collection and analysis, especially quantitative (statistical and/or geospatial) techniques (although the student may also employ qualitative or mixed methods for their dissertation); working knowledge of SPSS, R, and/or ArcGIS are preferred but not required.

The student will be required to engage collaboratively with fellow students and collaborators in the context of this interdisciplinary research, but they must also be able to work independently. The student will be expected to present research results at professional conferences and publish findings in peer-reviewed journal outlets. To learn more about ASU and opportunities related to this position, read about the [School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning](#) and [UWIN](#).

Interested students should send a *single .pdf or .doc document* to [Kelli.Larson@asu.edu](mailto:Kelli.Larson@asu.edu) before December 1, 2024, and ideally sooner: **1)** a forward-looking, one-page statement explaining your interests, goals, and skills related to the above project description and associated PhD research; and **2)** a current CV. Students from underrepresented groups (e.g., Black Indigenous and People of Color) are highly encouraged to apply. Inquiries are welcome in advance of application materials as well.

As required of all graduate students at ASU, competitive students will be asked to apply to the ASU Graduate College and [PhD program in geography](#). Thus, prospective students should also review the [graduate admissions website](#) for formal instructions. All application materials are due by December 15 and will be reviewed by the School's graduate committee.