Expression of Interest: Research Assistant, Political Violence & Election Monitoring (Internship)

About the Organization: The Bridging Divides Initiative (BDI) is a non-partisan research initiative that tracks and mitigates political violence in the United States. BDI supports efforts to grow and build local community resilience through elections and other periods of heightened risk, laying the groundwork for longer-term to bridge the divides we face as a nation.

We do this by 1) producing action oriented and responsive research to fill existing gaps and empower local leaders; 2) enabling cross sector collaboration, so individuals and organizations are better prepared to mitigate risk and response to crisis when it does arise; and 3) helping to drive the policy and community response. Over the last two years, BDI played an essential role in supporting a wide range of actors preparing for and responding to political violence and democratic crisis. Our data, analysis and tools continue to help a diverse coalition of national and local decision makers better target their interventions. BDI is based at the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA), co-hosted by the Empirical Studies of Conflict. Please visit https://bridgingdivides.princeton.edu/ for more information.

Position Overview:

At this time, BDI is not reviewing additional applicants for this position but would like to retain a list of interested individuals as our team expands into the Summer and Fall.

In the near future, the Bridging Divides Initiative will look to bring on several additional Research Assistants to support ongoing projects. Throughout these project portfolios, researchers will focus on issues of political violence, extremism, and election-related conflict. Interns will develop skills in secondary research and open-source intelligence methods, live event monitoring, and distilling complex socio-political events to diverse audiences. Interns will practice skills in team-based research, project management, and investigating trends on a community, state, regional, and national level. Interns are expected to work remotely with the BDI team, which will support them as they lead and manage the following efforts:

Responsibilities Can Include:

● Monitoring news sources and secondary reporting for relevant events in a particular geographic area, and watch for the need for rapid alerts.
● Producing and contextualizing trends over time by including quantitative analysis of longitudinal data.
● Consulting with frequently-used resources such as the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) and Crowd Counting Consortium.
● Engage with online monitoring resources provided by key partners, including ethnographic reports on emerging online trends and other actor-based monitoring.
- Authoring qualitative case studies situated in conflict analysis and community impact measures, based on length of commitment and availability.

**Qualifications:** The Intern should have demonstrated experience in many or all of the following core competencies required to successfully complete the project:
- Interpersonal and communication skills
- Reliably able to meet project deadlines
- Collaborative and consensus-building decision making
- Ability to work independently to locate and interpret information from multiple sources
- Familiarity with a variety of social media platforms
- Ability to evaluate source credibility
- Analytical and critical thinking skills that aim to contextualize ongoing events
- Familiarity with MS Office suite (Word, Excel) & Google Drive (Docs, Sheets, Forms)
- Familiarity with common research tools (NexusUni, ProQuest, Google News Alerts)

**Timeline:** The role is envisioned as a 6-month minimum engagement. Shorter term engagements are possible for the right candidate, and those seeking longer-term partnership are strongly encouraged to note this in their application materials.

**How to apply:** Send a resume and letter of interest to Dr. Michael Loadenthal (ml2283@princeton.edu), with bdi@princeton.edu in copy.

**Posted: 21 March 2022** - No matter who you are, BDI is a place you can call home. We know that our unique perspectives make us stronger, smarter, and well-positioned for success. We value and rely on the collective voices of our team to help guide our work on challenging issues. That’s why we’re proud Princeton is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, color, religion, sex orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.