The Non-Traditional Postdoc: Insights from the Social Sciences

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Abstract:

This panel explores the experiences of postdoctoral fellows in the social sciences who hold non-traditional positions in their respective academic institutions that differ from those in STEM related fields. In this session, panelists will share their insights related but not limited to: research expectations, negotiating salary, day-to-day tasks, teaching, start-up funds, professional development and socialization. As postdoctoral positions are increasing in various fields, we find it critical to increase knowledge about navigating and securing a postdoctoral fellowship with current SREB scholars.

Notes:

Session Leaders: Donta Council, Ph.D., American University Katrina Overby, Ph.D., Rochester Institute of Technology

The proposed session leaders are SREB alums who have completed their Ph.D. 's within the social sciences (Public Administration and Communications). We observed, over time, a lack of education and exposure of the postdoctoral experience at the Institute. Many of us only were only aware of traditional tenure track positions within the academy. Given the rise of postdocs in the social sciences, we find it critical that every social science SREB fellow has the adequate knowledge necessary to navigate career paths within the academy. We are happy to build this component into the Institute as a part of their professional development.