

Post-Doctoral Associate

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & APPLIED ECONOMICS

JOB SUMMARY: We seek a Post-doctoral Associate to join the Ecological Economics node of the Leadership for the Ecozoic (L4E) initiative at The University of Vermont. **We are specifically looking for an individual to research inflation, its drivers, and its political impacts.** The position is for 2 years, ideally beginning September 1, 2026. The workload of this position will be approximately 80% research and up to 20% student engagement and/or course design and teaching (if interested).

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Research: We have a very poor understanding of inflation. Our measures are limited, our drivers are empirically weak, and our solutions are blunt and inefficacious. This is due to the market-centrality of the hegemonic approach to inflation. **This project seeks to explore inflation as a liberal phenomenon by drawing upon a broad heterodox social science literature including ecological economics, ecofeminism, sociology, political economy, and degrowth.** We also seek to explore the political dynamics of inflation through a post-liberal lens that aims to re-embed value through rejecting the liberal separation between economy, community, and ecology.

The project has three major inquiries that overlap.

- 1) **Build a political economic theory of inflation as a distributional and political process, power relation, and ecological dynamic.**
 - a. What is inflation and how is it measured?
 - b. What causes inflation?
 - c. What reduces or mediates the impacts of inflation?
 - d. What does inflation cause?
*While this project is largely conceptual, it will include descriptive statistics (time series, scatterplots, etc) to critique mainstream drivers (money supply, debt, and inflation) and develop robust political economic drivers (power, labor dynamics, monetary lifecycle dynamics) of inflation.
- 2) **Test evidence of mainstream and new theory.**
 - a. Test mainstream drivers of and solutions to inflation, including debt, money supply, velocity, labor share, and other mainstream macro inflation drivers.
 - b. Test alternate drivers of inflation, including income inequality, financialization, bond yields, resource constraints, ecological/biodiversity health, corporate profit, market control, quality of lending, income and monetary distribution and growth, tax structure, beneficiaries of inflation, political dynamics, commodification of commons, loss of social safety net, and others.
- 3) **A Green, Postliberal State**
 - a. Develop a framing of the State in the context of inflation as a liberal phenomenon.
 - b. How might a 'commons' approach to basic services eliminate or mediate inflationary pressures?
 - c. How might non-capitalist industrial policy, democratization of credit, and value creation that is aligned with ecological limits influence inflation or its effects?
 - d. Could an alternative understanding of inflation give rise to a progressive green politics rather than authoritarian illiberalism or institutionalized neoliberalism?

Advising/Mentorship/Teaching

- Organize, manage, and contribute to lab meetings, webinars, workshops, and presentations
- Mentor L4E-affiliated students to develop their research and apply for external research funding
- Work to create and ensure an inclusive environment for students, researchers, and collaborators

QUALIFICATIONS: A Ph.D. is required for this position. The ideal candidate will have education and/or experience related to ecological economics, complex systems, degrowth, political ecology, or related fields.. The ideal candidate is interested in the project, very self-directed and able to take this project and run with it.

SALARY: \$57,000 in the first year plus benefits, including three weeks of vacation.

APPLICATION: To apply, send the following to Joe Ament (jament@uvm.edu).

- a cover letter
- CV
- statement of research interest
- 2 published or working papers
- [L4E Recruitment Questionnaire](https://tinyurl.com/364km8cs) (<https://tinyurl.com/364km8cs>)

Please write “L4E PostDoc Application” in the subject. We will begin reviewing applications on March 1, 2026, but will accept applications until a candidate is chosen. Letters of reference and transcripts will be requested from candidates who progress in the process.

About Leadership for the Ecozoic: The Ecozoic represents a vision for the future founded on mutually enhancing relationships between human societies and the global community of life through the lens of social justice. L4E, based at McGill University and the University of Vermont, works toward that vision by: (1) advancing transdisciplinary scholarship to educate and empower leaders for the Ecozoic; (2) co-creating a global research-to-action network to heal and restore Earth’s life support systems; and (3) mobilizing higher education resources on mitigating multi-faceted, human-induced, planetary declines in life support capacity. See the L4E Strategic Plan for more information. The McGill node of L4E focuses on Anthropology while the UVM node focuses on Ecological Economics.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT: The University is especially interested in candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of the institution. Applicants are encouraged to discuss in their cover letter how they will further this goal. The University of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any other category legally protected by federal or state law.

SETTING: Vermont is a small state with corresponding access to local and state politicians, a national leader in small businesses and non-governmental organizations, and therefore offers an exceptionally dynamic setting for applied research and community engagement. It is ranked among the “greenest”, safest and healthiest states. The greater Burlington area, in an exceptionally beautiful location on the shores of Lake Champlain, is a wonderful place to live, work and play.