Development Economics Research Assistant (Cambridge, MA) for Paul Novosad (Dartmouth College) and Sam Asher (University of Oxford)

We are seeking to hire a full-time research assistant to work with our team on the determinants of local economic development in India. This position will offer the opportunity to work directly with the principal investigators in the development of new research as well as the analysis on ongoing projects. Qualified candidates will have strong quantitative and computer skills, with experience in data analysis and management using Stata. Other computer programming skills, especially Python and ArcGIS, are highly desirable. Tasks will include scraping, managing and analyzing very large datasets on poverty and growth in India, working with new methods in computer science and statistics, conducting literature reviews, and assisting in the writing of academic papers. Travel to India is a possibility.

The work will focus on two areas. The first is a project on cities in India, which seeks to better understand the world's new megacities, including the spatial distribution of firms, employment and poverty, and the role of transportation infrastructure and congestion in urban geography. The second project involves analysis of India's recent poverty census, a 200-million household dataset with rich descriptions of patterns of development at the individual level. We have several projects examining impacts of government programs (e.g. rural roads) and the effect of politics and corruption on patterns of rural development. These projects are in early stages of data gathering and analysis, and will let candidates learn how to build a research project from the early stages through completion.

If you work with our team, you will learn cutting edge methods in both computer science and economics, skills that are highly valued in the research world, as well as in the private sector. You'll learn big data skills that are increasingly valuable in academic research but aren't currently being taught in Econ PhD programs. Compensation will be competitive and based on experience.

Reports to:
Paul Novosad (Assistant Professor of Economics, Dartmouth College)
Sam Asher (Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Oxford and Associate, Center for International Development, Harvard University)

Location: Cambridge, MA (USA) preferred, but working remotely is possible.
Deadline to apply: Applicants are reviewed on a rolling basis
Desired start date: As soon as possible
Length of Commitment: 1 year commitment is required for this position, extension is possible
Please Note: US work authorization required.

Qualifications:
-A Bachelor's degree in economics, computer science, statistics or a related field.
-Knowledge of Stata (required, unless you have significant skills in other languages)
-Knowledge of Python and other programming languages (desirable but not required)
-Excellent management and organizational skills along with strong quantitative skills
-Fluency and excellent communication skills in English
-Flexible, self-motivating, able to manage multiple tasks efficiently, and team player
-Experience living in a developing country preferred (India ideally) but not required

If you are interested, please send a CV, transcript, single-authored writing sample and code sample to paul.novosad@dartmouth.edu. In the message, please describe your reasons for applying for this position and any other skills that you think will be valuable in this work that are not listed in your CV.