

Dissent in the Design Professions: investigating political mobilization for social justice in architecture, planning, and engineering

Call for student researchers

Architects, planners, and engineers mobilize to make their **work** more just, their **institutions** more equitable, and their **governments** more accountable. Examples include, planners protesting for housing justice, architects advocating for gender equity within their profession, and civil engineers opposing unethical infrastructure projects.

Prof. Shawhin Roudbari at CU Boulder's Program in Environmental Design (ENVD) is conducting research on dissent in the design professions and looking for students to join the research team.

Through this project, we'll seek to understand ways built-environment professionals mobilize to shape political power. We will investigate forms of dissent including advocacy, activism, protest, and other means to political empowerment.

The project is an ethnography of design professionals that includes a study of social media as a space of formation and dissemination of discourses of dissent.

Fieldwork includes travel to meet with professionals for semi-structured interviews and observations of their gatherings and events. The study also involves network analysis and visualizing discourse formation on social media.

A goal of the research is to make visible the physical and virtual spaces through which design professionals organize and advocate for social justice causes.

Part of this project was awarded a 3-year grant from the National Science Foundation titled, "Engineering Dissent: Moving Political Engagement for Social Justice from the Vanguard into the Mainstream of the Engineering Profession."

This is a call for interested PhD and Masters students. Funding will be provided for a PhD student (for up to three years) and a Masters student. Travel expenses for extensive interviews and observations are included. (There are opportunities for **undergraduate students and postdoctoral scholars** to join the research team too.)

If you're interested in this project, please contact Shawhin at shawhin@colorado.edu or (510) 928-8846. Applicants should be in high academic standing, with a minimum 3.5 GPA. Students in **Sociology, ENVD, ATLAS, Anthropology, or CMCI** would likely be best suited for this work.

You will be asked to submit a CV, contact information for two professional or academic references, and a 500 to 700-word statement of interest. The statement should speak to your interest in this research and qualifications you bring to the project. You're also encouraged to submit a writing sample that demonstrates your writing ability.

See shawhinroudbari.com/research for more on the project. And see bit.ly/EngineeringDissentNSF for more information on the NSF award.



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