First Cohort

2017-2019

Loren Bauerband (Ph.D., University of Rhode Island) – Health Sciences
*Placement: Assistant Professor, Health Sciences, University of Missouri*
Loren’s research investigates healthcare disparities among LGBT individuals as well as the impact of minority stress on health behaviors and lifestyle patterns of transgender and sexual minorities.

Ruchi Bhattacharya (Ph.D., University of Arkansas) – Natural Resources
*Placement: Postdoctoral Fellow, Legacies of Agricultural Pollutants, University of Waterloo*
Ruchi’s research is developing an interdisciplinary and holistic approach to understand aquatic biochemical processes relevant for water quality and quantity issues influenced by anthropogenic modifications and climate causes.

Sarah Jacquet (Ph.D., Macquarie University) – Geological Sciences
*Placement: Assistant Professor, Geological Sciences, University of Missouri*
Sarah’s research interests reside in palaeobiology, systematics, and sedimentology. She uses high-powered imaging, field, petrographic, and geochemical techniques to examine the emergence and diversification of complex animal body plan through the Palaeozoic.

Terrell Morton (Ph.D., UNC Chapel-Hill) – Learning, Teaching, & Curriculum
*Placement: Assistant Professor, Learning, Teaching, & Curriculum, University of Missouri*
Terrell’s research focuses on student retention and matriculation in postsecondary education. He examines STEM retention for Black females in undergraduate research experiences and the influence of identity development and expression on student engagement.

Martha (Sofia) Ortega Obando (Ph.D., University of Florida) – Animal Sciences
*Placement: Assistant Professor, Animal Sciences, University of Missouri*
Sofia researches bovine reproductive physiology. She is particularly interested in the underlying genomics of fertility regulation, which are players driving maternal-embryo interactions, and how to regulate them to improve reproductive performance in mammals.