

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - RESEARCH

OVERVIEW

The American Dream – the aspiration that all children should have opportunities to climb the economic ladder – is at risk. In the 1950s, more than 90% of American children grew up to earn more than their parents did. Today, only 50% of children do so.

The mission of the [Equality of Opportunity Project](#) (EOP) -- a joint initiative of faculty at Stanford, Harvard, and Brown universities -- is to revive the American dream. We seek to develop scalable policy solutions that will empower families to rise out of poverty and achieve better life outcomes. We do this by harnessing the power of big data through high quality research to learn from areas where the American Dream is still thriving. We study economic mobility through lenses such as education, neighborhood environments, and health to understand the drivers of economic opportunity in the country and give local policy-makers customized data and insights to help them craft effective policy solutions. (You can hear an overview of our work on this [Freakonomics podcast](#).)

The project's work to date has shaped policy discussions at the national and local level, with nearly a dozen of its studies covered on the front pages of major media outlets, such as the [New York Times](#) and [Wall Street Journal](#) and cited in congressional testimony and the President's State of the Union addresses. This work has led to direct impacts on a broad range of decisions by local policy makers, ranging from school districts to housing authorities.

Our team, led by MacArthur "genius" award winner [Raj Chetty](#), [John Friedman](#), and [Nathan Hendren](#), consists of leaders from academia, policy, and management, supported by a staff of approximately 40 members who share a passion to revive the American Dream. We are now seeking an Assistant Director of Research, who will report directly to Dr. Chetty and help craft research narratives, reports, and presentations on his behalf. S/he will prepare presentations and briefings in advance of major presentations, talks, and conferences as well.

RESPONSIBILITIES

CONTRIBUTES TO WRITING AND PRESENTATION OF ORIGINAL RESEARCH

- Crafts academic papers and non-technical reports in partnership with Dr. Chetty and collaborators based on notes and conversations
- Drafts and prepares technical and non-technical research summaries, as well as slide presentations

SUPPORTS MAJOR PRESENTATIONS, MEETINGS, AND COMMUNICATION

- Manages speaking engagements requests for Dr. Chetty (intake, prep, communication)
- Facilitates communication including drafting substantive responses over email and representing EOP on large calls

- Prepares for speaking engagements (e.g. assembling slides, doing diligence and preparing briefs on event/agenda/attendees, etc.)
- Communicates key executive decisions to other team members

REQUIREMENTS

BACKGROUND/EXPERIENCE

- 3-5 years experience in quantitative research
- Minimum BA; MA preferred

SPECIFIC JOB SKILLS

- Fluency in communicating statistical research
- Excellent written communication for academic, policy, and lay-person audiences
- Project management skills

COMPETENCIES

- Detail oriented
- Team player – willing to contribute to collaborative culture
- Self-starter
- Dynamic: willing to engage in a rapidly growing organization with varied tasks

REPORTING LINES

- Reports to Founding Principal
- Direct reports: none

LOCATION

- Cambridge, MA; Palo Alto, CA or Providence, RI

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit a cover letter and resume to ellen_viruleg@brown.edu