



Job Posting

Research Analyst, Nature-Centric Approaches

October 2025

Organizational Host: United Nations Foundation

Location: Fully remote

Type: 80% Full-time equivalent consultancy, negotiable, 6 months duration

Reporting to: Director of Nature-Centric Approaches, ASRA

Fees: \$333 / day (negotiable), with monthly invoicing

Context

The [Accelerator for Systemic Risk Assessment \(ASRA\)](#) mobilizes a diverse global network of risk professionals and thought-leaders radically rethinking risk as a way to address current and future crises. ASRA aims to catalyze the science and practice of systemic risk assessment and to strengthen systemic risk response capacities especially amongst policy- and decision-makers at global, national, and sub-national scales. An independent, not-for-profit initiative hosted by the United Nations Foundation, ASRA is on a mission to accelerate transformative action that protects the earth's ecological systems and humanity from the threats of escalating systemic risks.

ASRA is working towards mainstreaming systemic risk thinking at speed and at scale. This entails working on how to undertake systemic risk assessments, considering not just single-hazard risks in specific systems (e.g. financial systems, food systems), but the potential for compounding and cascading risks across systems. It entails working on how to assess and design responses that can address multiple risks and the (inter)systemic nature of risk occurrence and transmission.

This is an extremely unique role, where eco-centric philosophy meets the manifestation of real-world risks, including potentially catastrophic and existential risks. In 2024, ASRA published a set of principles for systemic risk (ASRA, [2024](#)), which included, for the first time, a principle on non-human sanctity and interdependence which recognizes the sanctity, inherent value, and agency of non-human life. Whilst ASRA's most recent publication on a systemic risk assessment framework (Gambhir et al., [2025](#)) integrates this principle, ASRA recognizes that structural, pervasive and internalized anthropocentric biases reduce society's capacity to truly imagine, and find ways of understanding and supporting, non-human worlds. ASRA therefore requires radical methodological and interface innovation to bring these worlds to life.



The Role

- ASRA's Director, Nature-Centric Approaches, is looking for a research analyst to support the research and development of understanding, assessing and responding to systemic risk beyond human ways of knowing.
- The research analyst's primary role will be rapidly prototyping products that help convert theoretical and methodological developments into digital interfaces and (multi)media visualizations that help explore, understand, assess and respond to nature-centric systemic risk and disrupt human-centred thinking.
- The research analyst will also lead the integration of ecological/biogeographic data (etc.) into system maps and other graphical interfaces.
- The research analyst will provide ad hoc graphical, multimedia and data visualizations support to ongoing projects, including across the wider team as needed.
- The research analyst will support network building efforts with leading researchers and practitioners working in the more-than-human and systemic risk space.
- The research analyst will support communications pieces (blogs, social media content, etc.) to help promote nature-centric systemic risk
- The research analyst will support workshop and event facilitation as needed.
- The research analyst will contribute to and potentially lead research reports and academic publications.
- It is envisaged that this will be a desk-based role without travel during the initial 6 month period of the contract.
- The role will involve working in close collaboration with and support by the Director, Nature-Centric Approaches.

The Candidate

- ASRA is seeking a highly innovative, autonomous, flexible and creative researcher and analyst to meet this exciting opportunity. Specific requirements are:
 - Familiarity with, or deep interest in, an area of non-human research e.g., biological conservation, ecology, animal behaviour, animal cognition, eco-philosophy, multispecies ethnography, human-animal interaction, (critical) animal studies (etc.).
 - Skilled in using creative digital tools and techniques which can be applied in novel ways with ecological, (bio)geographic and sensory data to explore non-human systemic risks; e.g., GIS software, 3D modelling, immersive technology, photogrammetry, data visualization, interface design, digital spatial media, digital world building, design research or data journalism (etc.)



- Familiarity with, or deep interest in, systems thinking, complexity theory, catastrophic and existential risk etc. and core concepts such as uncertainty, risk, resilience, etc.
- Ability to work with an agile approach, comfortable leading experimental, cutting-edge, creative work and independently building innovative non-human systemic risk prototypes.
- Ability to work flexible hours, as the ASRA team is based across GMT, CET and ET time zones.
- Excellent time management, professionalism and strong commitment to advance ASRA principles ([here](#)).
- We encourage candidates from any background or stage in their career to consider applying.

How to express and interest

Please submit *in one singular PDF* a comprehensive resumé along with a cover letter which outlines your relevant experience and your motivation for this work.

Please include within your PDF, three examples from your portfolio* of e.g., GIS/3D modelling/digital mapping/digital spatial media, briefly (max 250 words each) outlining how they could be used to explore nonhuman risks.

*These do not have to be commissioned works and we invite speculative or concept pieces that demonstrate your ability.

Please send to:

Zabrina Kjeldsen, Operations Manager
Accelerator for Systemic Risk Assessment (ASRA)
team@asranetwork.org

For any further information about the role, please contact Phil Tovey (Director, Nature-Centric Approaches), ptovey@asranetwork.org

We are committed to creating a diverse environment. All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, religion, gender or sexual orientation, national origin, location, or age.



Any Conflict of Interest (Col) issues arising from applicants will be managed through the procurement rules and documented process, i.e., pre-identified criteria, appointed selection committee, fair and transparent competition.

Deadline for applications: 22 Oct 2024

About ASRA

ASRA (the Accelerator for Systemic Risk Assessment) aims to mainstream systemic risk assessment in policy and decision-making in response to current and future challenges. Hosted by the United Nations Foundation, this independent initiative advances the field and practice of systemic risk, and advocates for transformative action for the prosperity of all people, societies, species, and ecosystems. Learn more at www.asranetwork.org

Co-developed by a group of international experts, ASRA is grounded in the reality of the global polycrisis and mounting evidence that climate and other impacts are hitting harder and faster than experts had anticipated. Crises are increasingly interrelated across ecological, socio-economic, technological, and political systems – posing an intensifying challenge to our collective capacity to cope with simultaneous crises. ASRA will be guided by diverse perspectives and specifically include values of public good, universal human rights, as well as the intrinsic value of biodiversity and living systems, embedding those values in systemic risk frameworks and analysis.

Learn more at: www.asranetwork.org

About the United Nations Foundation

The UN Foundation is an independent charitable organization created to work closely with the United Nations to drive global progress and tackle urgent problems. Our hallmark is to collaborate for lasting change and innovate to address humanity's greatest challenges. With an insider's knowledge and outsider's flexibility, we stay agile to get things done.

We act as a strategic partner to help the UN mobilize the ideas, people, and resources it needs to deliver, and grow a diverse and durable constituency for collective action. We focus on issues at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals, build initiatives across sectors to solve problems at scale, and engage influencers and citizens who seek action. Partnership, and the power of smart and strategic collaboration, is in our DNA. We believe everyone has a part to play, everyone's voice should be heard, and everyone has a stake.



We invest early in action-oriented ideas and give them a chance to take root, thrive and scale up. We were one of the first to pioneer innovative public-private partnerships. Today we support initiatives that work with the UN and partners to achieve impact at scale on the SDGs, climate change, and major collective challenges. We are home to a series of successful organizations and initiatives, either created or hosted by us, that have their own identity but that work as part of the UN Foundation family.

Learn more at: www.unfoundation.org

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