



EDMOND J. SAFRA  
Center for Ethics

## **Democratic Knowledge Project Equity and Engagement Fellow**

The Democratic Knowledge Project (DKP) at the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics (EJSCE) at Harvard University seeks to fill a one-year post-graduate fellowship in the area of school-family engagement around in-school civic learning, with a particular focus on youth participatory research. This is a new, grant-funded position that will be situated within the EJSCE.

The DKP provides high quality resources for educators and students to support the development of authentic, informed, and skilled civic participants. We offer curriculum development resources, professional development workshops for educators, and assessment tools and resources—all in support of education for constitutional democracy. We believe students have the capacity to engage in deeper civic learning, in which students develop a civic identity by integrating their understanding of their personal identity and values, knowledge about our constitutional democracy, and the skills and roles necessary for effective civic participation. We believe that a project-based learning pedagogical approach encourages curiosity, critical thinking, and readiness to participate in one's community. Our curricular resources are designed to reflect these beliefs. We ask parents and educators to examine our curricular resources directly to assess the value of our approaches to civics and history education. We ask young people to investigate both the good and the bad in our shared history and in our constitutional democracy. The overall goal is for students to embrace the shared project of our democracy and to be able to work well with others, including across differences of perspective, to embrace their identities as civic participants. We study teachers' and students' experiences with our resources on an ongoing basis in order to support continuous improvement.

Since 2019, the DKP has been developing curricular resources, implementation supports, and professional development offerings for civics teachers in Massachusetts specifically. Our grade 8 curriculum, "Civic Engagement in Our Democracy," is currently in use in nine districts in Massachusetts, and curricular resources and professional development opportunities provided to educators throughout Massachusetts. We are now conducting a three-year project to deepen our understanding of students' experiences with the curriculum and the perspectives of their families. The larger aim of this research is to support productive, culturally responsive engagement between our school/district partners and families in the diverse communities where our curriculum is being implemented.

We seek a scholar or practitioner with a strong commitment to participatory action research. Specific research activities include recruitment, design and co-facilitation of focus groups with a Youth Advisory group (comprised of students who have experienced the curriculum) as well as surveys and in-depth interviews with parents/caregivers of students. The Faculty Director of the Democratic Knowledge Project, Dr. Danielle Allen, will act as the faculty sponsor. Working closely with the Principal Investigator for this study, Dr. Carrie James, and other DKP directors, the postgraduate researcher will lead components of research design (e.g. co-construct youth advisory board focus group facilitation guide, interview and survey questions), IRB/human subjects application management, recruitment and coordination of consent and assent



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processes, data collection and analysis, ongoing reporting of results with team members, and preparing reports and presentations for educators, funders, and other external parties.

The successful candidate will have robust research credentials as evidenced by a PhD or terminal degree (Education, Social Work, Public Health or equivalent) with research experience with qualitative data collection (interviews, focus groups), coding, and analysis; survey development, implementation, and quantitative data analysis.

Commitment to and experience with participatory research methodologies (co-design, participatory action research) is required.

Strong candidates will be detail oriented, able to work independently and as part of a team. Ability to communicate effectively with diverse stakeholders (e.g., school/district administrators, teachers, 8th/9th grade students, families, researchers).

Experience with qualitative software (Dedoose) is a plus.

Experience in K12 or afterschool educational settings is preferred.

Spanish language fluency is strongly preferred.

**About the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics.** The Center seeks to strengthen teaching and research about pressing ethical issues; to foster sound norms of ethical reasoning and civic discussion; and to share the work of our community in the public interest. Our culture is highly collaborative, and we work hard to support each other. There is a lively series of events and discussions that all Center members are encouraged to attend.

Annual compensation is \$60,000 (negotiable, based on experience). Details about benefits to be provided in the context of an offer.

We are looking for someone to start as soon as possible. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis beginning May 2022. The position will run through June 2023, with the possibility of renewal based on performance and funding.

Minimum qualifications: PhD in a relevant field or MA, MEd, MSW, MPH, or other terminal degree with significant relevant research experience; individuals with many different backgrounds will be considered.

Harvard is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

*If you believe that you qualify for at least 70% of this job description we encourage you to apply. We know that [imposter syndrome](#) and the [confidence gap](#) can prevent strong candidates from applying to a job unless they see themselves as a 100% fit. We would love to*



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*hear from you.*

**How to apply:** Email CV and cover letter to Vickie Aldin, [valdin@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:valdin@fas.harvard.edu). with the subject line: DKP Equity and Engagement Fellowship.

**Questions?** Please direct any questions to Vickie Aldin, [valdin@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:valdin@fas.harvard.edu).