

Inequality and Matching in LGBTQ+ Dating App Ecosystems

PI Goodreau (UW)

Match request: 50% of 1-month FTE for Jessica Godwin, valued at \$5,519 in salary/benefits

I am applying for a UW Global Innovation Fund Tier 3 Partnership Award, with researchers at the University of Manchester (Francesco Rampazzo, PI, and Łukasz Szulc). Dr. Rampazzo is a social science demographer and affiliate at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research. He approached me about this unique opportunity that funds new collaborations between faculty at UW and UoM. The details of our proposal are still being finalized, but its core is cross-national comparative analysis of profiles on two global geospatial apps that cater primarily to LGBTQ+ communities: one primarily for cis-gender males, and the other cis-gender females and gender-diverse persons. We aim to identify predictors of matching and engagement, including demographic characteristics (e.g. age, gender identity) and profile features (e.g. bio characteristics, number of images). More information on the motivation and methods is in the attached proposal draft.

Note that **the work does not qualify as human subjects research** following the Common Rule, since the study team does not have access to individually identifiable information about study participants.

Most of the work on the project will be supported through existing hard-money faculty support to Prof. Francesco Rampazzo and Łukasz Szulc, and potentially to Dr. Rampazzo's graduate student. Additional effort will be contributed by Dr. Goodreau during his sabbatical and beyond.

Although details are still being finalized, the funds (\$10k at UW, \$10k at UoM) will likely go to a combination of a focused planning meeting in Manchester, then another meeting/retreat in Seattle or Friday Harbor timed with PAA 2027, along with an organized session at PAA. The mechanism does not allow for any of the funds to go to salaries, and its small size does not allow for significant RA support and engagement at UW.

Our match request is for 50% of one-month FTE for Jessica Godwin, valued at \$5,519 in salary and benefits. This will enable Jessica to consult on relevant methods within her wheelhouse, and oversee some analyses, especially those conducted by graduate students at UoM. She can also contribute to planning, presenting and writing.

Jessica has been included in the planning conversations for this project. She is very excited for the opportunity to work with Dr. Rampazzo and on this topic, as both help her to extend her network and her expertise. The application mechanisms strongly recommends at least a 25% match from some source, and this corresponds to 27.6%.

Thank you for your consideration,

Steven Goodreau