

Public Sentiment

Chief Scientist

Public Sentiment seeks a Chief Scientist to lead the organization's efforts in applying behavioral neuroscience to policymaking and social justice issues – designing customized research strategies, implementing best practices and innovative methodologies, and setting the parameters on ethical and standard operating practices related to data collection, analysis, and translation.

About the Role

In this role, you will leverage your training and professional experiences to advance the field of mediation and conflict resolution related to both interpersonal and intergroup conflict. You will apply scientific tools, techniques, and insights to guide what kinds of information Public Sentiment collects from people, how that data is analyzed for specific policy implications, and the set of benchmarks that will be used to measure and evaluate our impact.

This is an opportunity for you to work closely as a thought partner with the founder and CEO of a lean start-up organization, and our team of committed and passionate professionals. Your own personal work style, philosophy, and attitude will help shape the culture of this young organization. You will contribute to building a team of committed, creative, and cognitively and culturally diverse professionals who are creating an inclusive, action-oriented, and – of course! – fun environment.

Skills Sought

Ideally, you will have experience with and/or knowledge about most of the areas outlined below. Our unofficial motto is #AlwaysLearning, so while it's ok if you're not an expert in all of these, we hope you'll work to become as educated on these capabilities, and others, as the work requires.

- General understanding of the following (with expertise in at least one): cognitive empathy, bias and discrimination, collective blame, motivated reasoning, dehumanization, conflict and negotiation, naïve realism
- Familiarity or experience with: identity, public opinion, political psychology
- Able to design research tools and collection processes that accommodate for variables like low digital literacy, physical and neurological disabilities, and multilingual/multicultural respondents
- Comfortable working with team of historians, UX designers, and technologists to create place-based research strategies that account for social, historical, cultural and other contextual factors
- Adept and flexible working style conducive to developing – from scratch - the tools and methodologies for data collection and analysis (this will be done closely with our Lead Designer and Lead Engineer).
- Understanding of psychographic profiling methodology and ability to apply it to predict behavior changes in target communities
- Experience designing effective metrics and measurement tools for impact evaluation

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- Collaborative approach to designing and prioritizing research needs to inform Lead Engineer's efforts in developing Public Sentiment's digital toolkit

Potential Responsibilities

- Behavior benchmarking
- Survey tool development
- Data scheme management
- Survey target-setting
- Training civil society partners on effective data collection, management techniques
- Selecting SaaS, open-source, and/or proprietary technology to store and analyze data
- Automated sentiment analysis and other cutting-edge tools for analysis
- Producing comprehensive research briefs and digital dashboards
- Visual portrayal of data and insights (infographics, charts, etc.)
- Data translation into policy recommendations or strategies
- Articulate and explain (to a non-expert audience) our methodology, findings, etc.

Ideal Candidates Will Be:

- Comfortable working in a start-up environment alongside a small and talented team of political scientists, social scientists, and UX designers (some remotely)
- Capable of making recommendations for, doing exploratory research on, and thinking creatively about ways to seamlessly integrate various tools for data analysis, synthesis, and visualization
- Able to articulate preferences and relative pros/cons about NLP software tool performances and integrations
- Interested in civic engagement, and believe that there are better ways to solve social conflict through tech-focused solutions.

Timing & Compensation

Looking for candidates available to begin immediately, ideally located in New York City, potentially remote. This is a contracted, part-time position. Compensation commensurate with experience. Potential for additional work.

About Public Sentiment

Public Sentiment leverages local community leaders and cutting-edge digital tools to build seamless and systematic community engagement – producing meaningful data, fostering sustained dialogue, and enabling smarter policy design grounded in the realities of people's lives.

Public Sentiment is a registered 501c3 organization based in New York, NY.

TO APPLY, email intro & resume to: hi@publicsentiment.org

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Public Sentiment

The BIG Print

Public Sentiment believes societies are strongest and most vibrant when everyone has an opportunity to participate. The organization affirms this belief in its hiring practices.

We actively seek candidates from all backgrounds, and especially those who can draw on experiences from historically underrepresented communities, including: people with physical, biological, or neurological disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, people of color, people from low-income families, or first- or second-generation immigrants or refugees.

When applying, please feel free to include information about your unique and valuable experiences.