1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow in Political Geography

School/department: School of Global Studies

Hours: full time or part time hours considered up to a maximum of 1.0 FTE. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).

Contract: fixed term for 2 years

Reference: 2721

Salary: starting at £33,797 and rising to £40,322 per annum

Placed on: 12 November 2019

Closing date: 12 December 2019. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Expected Interview date: tbc

Expected start date: 10 January 2020

The ERC Violence, Elites and Resilience in States Under Stress (VERSUS) project seeks a full time post-doctoral researcher with skills and experience in social network analysis, econometric research, Bayesian analysis, data collection and organization. This analyst should have an advanced degree which has incorporated both political studies and empirical approaches to political studies. The ideal candidate will have extensive evidence of their work in network analysis, including but not limited to, dark networks, political questions, Bayesian approaches, and spatial analysis. The position is for 2 years.

For full details and how to apply see our vacancies page

The University of Sussex values the diversity of its staff and students and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds.

2. The School / Division

Please find further information regarding the school/division at http://www.sussex.ac.uk/global/
3. Job Description

CORE JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Research Fellow in Political Geography
Grade: Research Fellow I, Grade 7
School: Global Studies
Location: UK
Responsible to: Principal Investigator through to Head of School
Direct reports: n/a
Key contacts: Members of research group, members of faculty within the School and University.

Role description: Research Fellow I is an early career-grade research position. Post holders will be expected to contribute to the work of the research team, and also to develop their research skills with support from more experienced members of staff.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications; and to develop research funding and knowledge exchange income individually or in collaboration with others, as appropriate, depending on the size and scope of the bid.

2. To contribute to School teaching activities, as directed by the PI. No teaching will be done in this appointment.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

1.1 Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, at acceptable levels, with assistance if required.

1.2 Conduct research projects individually and in collaboration with others.

1.3 Analyse and interpret research findings and draw conclusions on the outcomes.
1.4 Produce high-quality research outputs for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals, or performance/exhibition, as appropriate, and contribute to the School’s REF submission at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.

1.5 Contribute to the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example for funding purposes.

1.6 Individually or with colleagues, explore opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy, where permissible.

1.7 Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.

1.8 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.

2. Teaching & Student Support

2.1 Undertake teaching duties, if required.

2.2 Assist in the assessment of student knowledge and supervision of student projects if required.

2.3 Assist in the development of student research skills, for example as part of a postgraduate supervision team.

3. Contribution to School & University

3.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.

3.2 Undertake additional duties, as required by the Principal Investigator and/or Head of School.

4. Role-specific duties

The ERC consolidator project grant Violence, Elites and Resilience in States Under Stress (VERSUS) engages in the study of disaggregated violence and politics in Africa. This project assesses the roles of elites in political networks, and estimates the effect of formal and informal characteristics and relationships on the arrangement and distribution of power. The relevance of the project is to better understand political survival, the use of violence and policy-entry points to improve the political situation of people.

The project seeks an analyst with skills and experience in social network analysis, econometric research, Bayesian analysis, data collection and organization. This analyst should have an advanced degree which has incorporated both political studies and empirical approaches to political studies. The ideal candidate will have extensive evidence of their work in network analysis, including but not limited to, dark networks, political questions, Bayesian approaches, and spatial analysis.
The research analyst positions will be directly working with the team at the University of Sussex. And the tasks include:
(a) engage in research work, writing and conducting data collection and analysis with the PI
(b) preparing and conducting quantitative analysis (including data cleaning, prepping for analysis, etc.),
(c) conducting literature reviews/desk research, etc.
(d) contribute to research articles on elite networks, power dimensions and strategies
(e) produce data visualizations
(f) work closely with other team members and support ways for VERSUS staff to engage in analysis.
(g) Other ad hoc research and analysis support tasks and occasional administrative and coordination tasks.

Skills and competencies
• VERSUS is seeking applicants who are willing to be engaged in several simultaneous projects.
• The following experience and abilities are mandatory
• Fluency in English
• Reliable with strong problem-solving skills, strong writing and editing skills, strong critical thinking and analysis skills, an extremely high level of attention to detail
• PhD in a field with combined political, econometric and social network specializations and skills
• 3-5 years of experience manipulating large datasets and building and testing statistical models
• Excellent written and verbal communication skills for engaging with team members and outside researchers
• Ability to work remotely and meet deadlines with limited supervision (experience working in a remote environment preferred)
• Familiarity with the academic literature around conflict and political violence
• Knowledge of statistical packages for conducting quantitative analysis
• Deep knowledge of social network packages and use
• Experience conducting desk-based research and literature reviews
• Solid experience with Tableau software, creating engaging data visualizations
• Experience with spatial software and applications (e.g. Esri GIS suite, QGIS, Mapbox, etc.)

This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or level of responsibility entailed.