1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow in Transformative Innovation  
School/department: University of Sussex Business School  
Contract: fixed term until 31 January 2022  
Hours: Full time Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need)  
Reference: 2981  
Salary: starting at £33,797 to £40,322 per annum  
Placed on: 16 December 2019  
Closing date: 30 January 2020. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.  
Expected Interview date: 7 February 2020  
Expected start date: As soon as possible

The Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), within the University of Sussex Business School, is seeking to appoint a Research Fellow to lead an analysis of the ongoing work of the Transformative Innovation Policy Consortium (TIPC). TIPC is an international consortium established at the Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex in 2017 to develop methods, instruments and tools for transformative innovation policy.

This is a unique opportunity for a researcher to go into depth in this trans-disciplinary project on transformative innovation policy, working alongside academics involved in TIPC to examine, reflect and write about what has been learnt from this rich experience in these very different contexts. We are looking to develop overlaps between knowledge management and learning as applied to science, technology and innovation and transformative innovation, although there will be opportunities to explore various theoretical frames. The post holder will also be expected to gather primary material, including conduct interviews with policy makers and practitioners from different countries of Europe, Africa and Latin America.

Essential criteria for the post are:
1. PhD in the social sciences or in an inter-disciplinary field including the social sciences.
2. Knowledge of science, technology and innovation policy
3. Knowledge of theories and evidence related to sustainability transition theory and empirics, environmental economics or social action related to these areas
4. Experience in developing primary qualitative data on organisational or social group behaviour
5. Ability to work collaboratively in designing, implementing, and writing up qualitative research.
6. Strong analytical capability and evidence of excellent academic writing
7. Ability to understand cross-country differences and understand cultural and institutional differences.

Informal enquires can be made with Dr Matias Ramirez (Matias.Ramirez@sussex.ac.uk)  
For full details and how to apply see our vacancies page
2. **The School / Division**

**The University of Sussex Business School**

The University of Sussex Business School was formed in 2009 and comprises the Department of Accounting and Finance, the Department of Strategy and Marketing, the Department of Management, the Department of Economics and the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU). With a new home in the Jubilee Building, a state-of-the-art academic building at the heart of the campus, the Business School is a vibrant, ambitious and dynamic School with a strong research focus.

**SPRU (Science Policy Research Unit)**

Founded in 1966 by Christopher Freeman, SPRU was one of the first interdisciplinary research centres in the field of science and technology policy and management. Today, with over 60 faculty members, SPRU remains at the forefront of new ideas, problem-orientated research, inspiring teaching, and creative, high impact engagement with decision makers across government, business and civil society. Our research addresses pressing global policy agendas, including innovation challenges posed by the digital economy, the future of industrial policy, inclusive economic growth, the politics of scientific expertise, energy policy, security issues, entrepreneurship, and pathways to a more sustainable future.

SPRU researchers are driven by a desire to tackle real-world questions, whilst also contributing to a deeper theoretical understanding of how science, technology and innovation is shaping today’s world. A 2012 study published in the journal 'Research Policy' ranked SPRU second only to Harvard University in terms of its research impact in innovation studies. With a community of over 140 MSc and doctoral students from all over the world, SPRU is also well known for its high quality, research-led teaching programmes.

**The Project**

**TIPC** is a consortium established at the Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex in 2017 to develop methods, instruments and tools for transformative innovation policy. TIPC has a governing board composed of six national policy agencies of science and technology - three from Europe (Sweden, Norway and Finland), two from Africa (Senegal and South Africa) and one from Latin America (Colombia). Academics from SPRU as well as other universities including Utrecht in Netherlands and Ingenio are actively involved in the project. The first three years of the consortium have begun to establish new narratives and methods for STI policy making at national level in these countries to encourage sustainable transitions. The project is now moving into a mode of policy experimentation and evaluation phase as well as developing tools for training, capacity building and exploring new frontiers of research.
3. **Job Description**

   Job Description for the post of: Research Fellow in Transformative Innovation

**Job Title:** Research Fellow in Transformative Innovation  
**Grade:** Research Fellow I, Grade 7  
**School:** Business School, SPRU  
**Location:** Jubilee Building  
**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.

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**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.
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**

4.1 Conduct literature review on STI policy, especially related to transformative innovation in different national and regional contexts

4.2 Analyse the work of the Transformative Innovation Policy Consortium through documentary evidence, policy briefs following knowledge management strategy

4.3 Conduct interviews with partners using transformative innovation policy framework to produce evidence base to support analysis.

4.4 Use the above information to lead paper writing on experience of experimentation and evaluation in diverse national, political and cultural contexts in lead journals

4.5 Provide regular reports and work with TIPC lead team to reflect on experience to improve practices

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.
INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- A PhD or equivalent scholarly or relevant professional activity
- Pursuing a line of independent research within a research group.
- Publishing research (either from a recently completed PhD or new original research).
- Other forms of externally recognised professional practice of creative output of a standing equivalent to regular publication of original research.
- Initiating, developing or participating in links between the University and external bodies such as business and industry, the professions, community organisations and policymakers.
- Evidence of successful engagement in teaching or supervision.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Normally educated to doctoral level, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).

2. Evidence of engagement in high-quality research activity.

3. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.

4. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.

5. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.

6. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.

7. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.

8. Excellent IT skills.
ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. PhD in the social sciences or in an inter-disciplinary field including the social sciences.
2. Knowledge of science, technology and innovation policy
3. Knowledge of theories and evidence related to sustainability transition theory and empirics, environmental economics or social action related to these areas
4. Experience in developing primary qualitative data on organisational or social group behaviour
5. Ability to work collaboratively in designing, implementing, and writing up qualitative research.
6. Strong analytical capability and evidence of excellent academic writing
7. Ability to understand cross-country differences and understand cultural and institutional differences

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Emerging track record of high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.
2. Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income.
3. Evidence of having worked collaboratively or as sole in author in the production of one or more high-quality publications in reputable journals or other appropriate media of similar standing.
4. Experience in working outside of academic context in areas related to sustainability or environmental economics.
5. Experience of fieldwork interviewing
6. Knowledge of the literature of transformative innovation