1 Advertisement

Post Title: Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Political Economy of Education (The PEER Network)
School/department: School of Education and Social Work
Hours: Full time, considered up to a maximum of 1 FTE.
Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).
Contract: fixed term for 3 years
Reference: 4535
Salary: starting at £33,797 to £40,322 per annum, pro rata if part time
Placed on: 04 September 2020
Closing date: 05 October 2020 Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.
Expected start date: October 2020 or soon thereafter


The PEER Network was developed in partnership with the universities of Cape Town (South Africa), Nazarbayev (Kazakhstan) and Ulster (UK). The aim of the network is to strengthen political economy analysis of education systems in countries affected by conflict or crisis and support the development of critical scholars and practitioners in Sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia.

Over the next three years the PEER Network will bring together policymakers, practitioners and academics to develop tools, knowledge and expertise; commission research studies to create locally owned knowledge; and make tools and resources freely available online to support early career researchers to undertake political economy analysis of education systems in their own contexts.

The Post-holder will be expected to support the work of the PEER Network and with support from PI Professor Mario Novelli, contribute to research, teaching, training and project management and administration.

Please contact Mario Novelli m.novelli@sussex.ac.uk for informal enquiries.

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 and Research Group at [http://www.sussex.ac.uk/education/](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/education/) ; [http://www.sussex.ac.uk/education/cie/index](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/education/cie/index)

3. **Job Description**

Job Description for the post of: **Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Political Economy of Education (The PEER Network)**

**Department:** Education  
**Section/Unit/School:** Education & Social Work

**Location:** Essex House

**Grade:** 7

**Responsible to:** Professor Mario Novelli

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**Main Duties and Responsibilities**

- The PDRA is a key role based in the Centre for International Education (CIE), in the School of Education and Social Work, University of Sussex. You will be part of the PEER Network research team and will support PI Mario Novelli, in developing, piloting, sourcing materials and delivering training and teaching in the Political Economy of Education in Conflict Contexts, both face to face and online. You will also support the writing of think pieces, blogs, literature reviews and journal articles in the area of education in conflict affected contexts. You will also be responsible for developing and maintaining on online open source learning site in the area of Political Economy of Education in Conflict Contexts and supporting the mentoring of junior researchers in Central Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

*The PEER Network is funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and UKRI through the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) (Grant Ref: AH/T008075/1 CC 95298R).*
4. **Person Specification**

**PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES**

1. To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity in the broad area of the Political Economy of Education 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 PEER Network teaching and training and knowledge exchange 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.
4. Role-specific duties

The main responsibilities involve:

4.1 Teaching & Training: Under the guidance of the PI you will develop materials, support lecture series, reading groups and online activities aimed at supporting scholars to develop skills in the political economy of education in conflict and crisis contexts.

4.2 Researching & Writing: With the support of PI you will review and synthesise literature, draft articles and briefings linked to the projects focus on the political economy of education.

4.3 Disseminating Research and Resources: You will be responsible for maintaining a designated website that will be an open access source for materials and media related to the political economy of education in conflict affected contexts.

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 policy-makers.
- 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. Knowledge of Political Economy of Education in Conflict Contexts

2. Willingness to travel internationally for Research and Dissemination, where safe to do so.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Emerging track record of high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing and/or the capacity to do so.

2. Experience of working with scholars, researchers and professionals in the Global South and building equitable partnerships.

3. Knowledge of Sub-Saharan Africa and/or Central Asia context