



1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow in Psychology

School/department: School of Psychology

Hours: Full time or part 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 2 years

Reference: 4082

Salary: starting at £33,797 to £ 40,322 per annum, pro rata if part time

Placed on: 6 July 2020

Closing date: 5 August 2020 Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Expected start date: 1 September 2020

The School of Psychology at the University of Sussex is seeking applications for a post-doctoral research fellow for two years, starting on 1 September 2020.

The successful candidate will coordinate the Sussex part of the project '*Threat, identity, and dissent: Understanding and addressing political polarization in European democracies*' (see <https://www.norface.net/project/undpolar/>). She/he will be supervised by Dr Matthew Easterbrook and work in close collaboration with colleagues in Groningen, Tilburg, Brussels, Clermont-Ferrand, Granada, and Warsaw.

The project aims to understand political polarization in Europe by investigating belief systems among different groups in the population. We will investigate how identities and threat combine to generate polarized attitudes, and how belief systems vary across countries and over time.

Correlational class analysis (in R) and experiments that test causal effects of identities and threats will be used to explore this and help to understand and identify solutions to overcome polarization.

Please contact Dr Matt Easterbrook (m.j.easterbrook@sussex.ac.uk) for informal enquiries.

The University of Sussex celebrates and promotes diversity, equality and inclusion amongst our staff and students. As such, we welcome applications from all, regardless of personal characteristics or background.

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/psychology/>

3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Postdoctoral Research Fellow

School: Psychology

Location: Pevensey Building, Falmer, University of Sussex

Grade: 7

Responsible to: Dr Matthew J. Easterbrook, Senior Lecturer in Psychology

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The project aims to understand political polarization in Europe by investigating belief systems among different groups in the population. We will investigate how identities and threat combine to generate polarized attitudes, and how belief systems vary across countries and over time.

Correlational class analysis (in R) and experiments that test causal effects of identities and threats will be used to explore this and help to understand and identify solutions to overcome polarization.

The successful candidate will be responsible for:

- Running correlational class analyses on existing national and international survey data
- Helping to develop a new international survey on threat, identity, and polarization
- Setting up experimental studies on the role of inequality, social mobility, and education in creating polarization
- Taking active part in, and helping to organize, the project meetings with the European partners
- Writing up results for publication

The University of Sussex believes that the diversity of its staff and student community is fundamental to creative thinking, pedagogic innovation, intellectual challenge, and our interdisciplinary approach to research and learning. We celebrate and promote diversity, equality and inclusion amongst our staff and students. As such, we welcome applications from all, regardless of personal characteristics or background.

4. Person Specification

- A PhD in social psychology, sociology, or political sciences
- An interest in political psychology
- Advanced knowledge of statistical analysis techniques such as multiple regression, multilevel analysis, and cluster analysis
- Experience with analyzing data in R
- Experience of working with secondary data sets
- Excellent communication skills in English
- A team player who easily collaborates with others

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 Running correlational class analyses on existing national and international survey data
- 4.2 Helping to develop a new international survey on threat, identity, and polarization
- 4.3 Setting up experimental studies on the role of inequality, social mobility, and education in creating polarization
- 4.4 Taking active part in, and helping to organize, the project meetings with the European partners
- 4.5 Writing up results for publication

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.