A Postdoctoral Researcher is needed for a new ESRC-funded research project at the University of Sussex. The project aims to provide a new theoretical understanding of the social psychology of crowd flight, which occurs in response to perceived hostile threats. The work will involve using archive, news media, and interview data to understand key historical and contemporary ‘stampede’ incidents to help develop the new theoretical model.

The project is led by Professor John Drury (School of Psychology). The post will involve being the lead researcher on three empirical studies. First, a descriptive review of incidents involving crowd responses to perceived threats, using secondary sources to identify some common features. Second, a historical case study of the Bethnal Green tube disaster of 1943, drawing on archive sources and some primary data. Third, a case study of the Oxford Street incidents of Autumn 2017 when people fled from a noise they thought was a gunshot, using interviews.

Specific duties will include: getting ethical clearance for the studies; locating and collecting the appropriate secondary data sources; arranging and carrying out interviews; organizing, coding and analysing qualitative data; producing the review and case studies of incidents; drafting journal papers; archiving data-sets with UK Data Service; presenting conference papers; helping to organize Impact events. Skills and experience required include proficiency at interviewing, qualitative analysis (e.g. thematic analysis), working with archives, media materials, and organizing large qualitative data-sets. Some experience of data-triangulation is desirable,
The postholder will be supported by a clerical assistant and will work closely with an external consultant (historian) for the Bethnal Green case study. S/he will also liaise with colleagues running other strands of the overall project (at Keele and St Andrews).

The University of Sussex is a leading research and teaching institution and is ranked within the top 20 in the UK and the top 150 in the world. The School of Psychology at the University of Sussex is one of the largest centres for the study of psychology in the UK. The School was rated 10th in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework. The School has recently been awarded an Athena Swan Silver Award.

Please contact Prof John Drury, email: j.drury@sussex.ac.uk for informal enquiries.

The University is committed to equality and valuing diversity, and applications are particularly welcomed from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Mathematics (STEmM) at Sussex.

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**

Please find further information regarding the School at www.sussex.ac.uk/psychology.

3. **Job Description**

**Job Title:** Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
**Grade:** Research Fellow I, Grade 7  
**School:** Psychology  
**Location:** Pevensey  
**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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The purpose of this particular post is to use interviews, archive materials and qualitative analysis to carry out a review and two case studies as part of the ESRC ‘stampedes’ project.

**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 Carry out and analyse interviews with people present at perceived hostile threat incidents

4.2 Collect, organize and analyse archive and news material on perceived hostile threat incidents

4.3 Produce narrative accounts of perceived hostile threat incidents drawing on multiple archive sources

4.4 Lead in the writing of journal articles and conference papers

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.
4. **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. Experienced in interviewing

2. Experience in qualitative analysis (e.g. thematic analysis)

3. Experience organizing large qualitative data-sets.

4. Emerging track record of high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.

5. Knowledge of psychological research on social identity and group processes in emergencies and disasters.

6. Excellent communication skills

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA**

1. Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income.

2. Experience of data-triangulation

3. Experience of working with archives, media materials,