Sussex Humanities Lab (SHL) in collaboration with the Schools of History, Art History and Philosophy (HAHP) and Engineering and Informatics (E&I) wish to appoint to a fixed term, non-renewable, fellowship in Digital Publishing and Data Visualization. Intended to support the development of research projects at the boundaries between the Humanities (broadly conceived) and other disciplines, the fellowship combines direct development of public facing web resources (including the preparation of data for visualization) and academic research and publication in the area of digital publishing.

The fellow is expected to have direct experience in data visualization and a commitment to critical engagement with the rapidly evolving character of publishing online. They will work with developers and researchers from the Humanities and Informatics, to both implement ongoing projects, and to develop a recognisable web style and format, to be shared across the Lab’s projects. Additionally, the successful candidate will work with Lab members, individually and with colleagues to develop a portfolio of digital projects. The fellow will be mentored by a member of SHL. The post will be physically based in the schools of History, Art History and Philosophy, and Engineering and Informatics, with access to the facilities and expertise available in SHL.

The successful candidate will be familiar with data visualization tools, web and graphic design, with internet architecture and archiving, and with basic project management; they will be confident in producing projects, and sites to completion and publication. Additionally, the successful candidate will have a track record in academic engagement with new models of online academic publishing. Candidates will be expected to have knowledge of the following: data visualisation (Geffy, Tableau, Qlik or similar), data management (e.g. Apache Spark) and web design (CSS, HTML, XML).

The fellow will be expected to play a full role in SHL activities, to present at least one lecture and one workshop to SHL, to engage constructively with other SHL faculty, and to assist in multiple projects, as directed by the work programme of SHL (set by the Core team), and by their mentor. They will also have an opportunity to teach at undergraduate level, either in HAHP or I&E, or in other areas suited to their expertise. Teaching may also take the form of contributions to SHL open courses.

The position involves:

- Designing and implementing a series of public facing websites, built on the work of other Lab staff.
- Working with large data sets to create interactive visualizations.
- Producing and developing styles and templates with data visualization issues across a range of projects.
The person appointed will work with both the SHL team and associated academics to produce high quality digital and online projects. They will work within a lively and intellectually vibrant research programme to help deliver a new vision of the humanities – as a field with digital resources and critiques at its heart.

Good communication skills, a commitment to innovation, and an ability to work productively as part of a cross-disciplinary team are essential for this position.

For an informal discussion of the post, please contact either Tim Hitchcock, Professor of Digital History (t.hitchcock@sussex.ac.uk), or David Weir, Professor of Computer Science (d.j.weir@sussex.ac.uk).

Closing date for applications: 31 March 2017

For full details and how to apply see www.sussex.ac.uk/jobs

The University of Sussex is committed to equality of opportunity
2. Senior leadership and management

The Vice-Chancellor (Professor Adam Tickell) is the senior academic officer and, as Chief Executive, is responsible to the University Council for management of the University. He is supported by an executive group which includes the Four Pro-Vice-Chancellors, the Registrar and Secretary, the Director of Finance and the Director of Human Resources. The Heads of the Schools of Studies at Sussex report to the Pro-Vice-Chancellors.

The Registrar and Secretary heads the Professional Services of the University. In addition, under the University Statutes, the Registrar and Secretary is Secretary to the University Council. The Director of Finance reports to the Vice-Chancellor. The Director of ITS reports to the Registrar and Secretary, and the Librarian reports to one of the Pro-Vice-Chancellors.

3. Sussex Humanities Lab

SHL (Sussex Humanities Lab) is a University Research Programme, and is charged to deliver a four year, centrally funded programme of research in the digital humanities, bringing together staff from four of the University’s constituent schools, as well as the Library. The Lab is designed to generate a step change in the University’s engagement with the digital humanities through a coordinated series of projects that encompass the development of new digital resources and the critique of the impact of the digital on culture and scholarship more broadly. Working with the individual schools, the Lab seeks to redefine the role of the digital, and in the process, the traditional sub-disciplines of the humanities. To achieve these ends, the University has invested £2.9 million over four years, to bring in new staff, and to create new types of relationships and new spaces for scholarship. Besides creating a state of the art physical lab space, SHL encompasses twenty existing faculty in history, media studies, performance, informatics, and social work. These include six dedicated lectureships in the digital humanities, spread across the subject areas that contribute to the Sussex Humanities Lab.

The activities associated with the Lab are organised in to four strands:

1. Digital History/Digital Archives:

This strand seeks to move beyond the provision of digital archives to the re-analysis and presentation of inherited materials. ‘Big Data’, distant and close reading of digital materials (text, place and objects), re-configuring search and archival structures, and exploring new ways of presenting history online, form the core activities of staff in this strand. Drawing on the extensive experience of digital creation in the School of History, Art History and Philosophy, including the work of Tim Hitchcock, Sharon Webb and James Baker, this strand seeks to develop new forms of historical research and writing.

2. Digital Media/Computational Culture Strand:

This strand is concerned with the transformative moment in humanities and social science research when computation becomes not only an everyday part of the research process, but also the condition for the research to be undertaken. Adopting a critical approach to the development and dissemination of digital media in all forms, this strand interrogates: the materiality of computational technology; the relationship between symbol and signal; computation and epistemic change; and finally power and activism in relation to digital technologies.
3. Digital Technologies/Digital Performance Strand:

This strand addresses digital technologies in the arts, and prioritizes practice-led research geared towards artistic processes and productions. It explores live performance, and the use of interactive, online, and locative media. Real-time sensors and algorithmic processes, motion capture and live coding, artificial intelligence and artificial life techniques will be investigated through creative digital renderings of motion and gesture in sonic and visual arts, extending to haptics and multimodal forms. Research in this strand addresses digital performance archives and datasets pertaining to other forms of ‘live’ cultural heritage, and the novel kinds of performance / performativity emerging via locative and distributed media, and aggregated big data.

4. Digital Lives/ Digital Memories Strand:

This strand explores how digital technologies and their affordances form part of the fabric of everyday lives, creating new logics of practice that may be realised in different and unexpected ways. A core element of this Strand is the theme of ‘digital childhoods’, involving documenting and analyzing contemporary childhoods and exploring the interplay between dynamic processes of technical and biosocial maturation. Digital temporalities are also an analytic focus, and the use of longitudinal, cross generational and archive based methodologies are used to explore cultural transitions between analogue and digital environments. A third focus is on forms of ‘context collapse’ (Boyd) afforded by digital technologies, which disrupt many of the cultural boundaries of modernity and associated forms of expertise - e.g. those between public and private, home and the school, professional and the client, the developed and underdeveloped world, and the old and the young.

The Lab is designed to break down the boundaries between individual fields, and to facilitate radically trans-disciplinary work. In particular, the programme is designed to bring together Humanities, Social Sciences and STEM researchers; combining art with code, history with informatics, aesthetics with statistics.

The Programme is led by Professor Caroline Bassett. She is supported by a Core Management Team (CMT) including Co-Directors Professors David M. Berry, Tim Hitchcock, Sally-Jane Norman, and Rachel Thomson. The programme of activities associated with SHL began in September 2015 and will run to September 2019.

School of History, Art History and Philosophy

The School of History, Art History and Philosophy was created in 2009 as part of a major reorganisation of the University’s Faculty structure. It brings together a group of related disciplines – American Studies, Art History, History, and Philosophy – in a common endeavour to study, understand and disseminate knowledge of the historical, philosophical and artistic manifestations of human existence.

With approximately 50 academic staff and 1,000 students, the School offers a diverse, cosmopolitan and supportive environment. All areas of the School performed well in the 2014 REF (including History = 15th; and Philosophy = 16th) and all are routinely placed within the top twenty in their respective disciplines by the Times, Guardian and Independent newspapers and the Good University Guide. The School’s cross-disciplinary interests are evident from its research centres. These include the Sussex Centre for Intellectual History, the Centre for Poverty and Inequality Research, the Centre for Byzantine Studies, the
German-Jewish Studies Centre, the Centre for the History of War and Society, the Centre for World Environmental History, and the Centre for Colonial and Postcolonial History.

**Current Staff and Research Interests**

For a full list of current Faculty in each of the School’s constituent departments, please visit our website:

History: [http://www.sussex.ac.uk/history/people/peoplelists/group/faculty](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/history/people/peoplelists/group/faculty)

American Studies: [http://www.sussex.ac.uk/americanstudies/people/peoplelists](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/americanstudies/people/peoplelists)

Philosophy: [http://www.sussex.ac.uk/philosophy/people/peoplelists/group/faculty](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/philosophy/people/peoplelists/group/faculty)

Art History: [http://www.sussex.ac.uk/arthistory/people/peoplelists/group/faculty](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/arthistory/people/peoplelists/group/faculty)

**The School of Engineering and Informatics**

The School of Engineering and Informatics covers the disciplines of computer, electrical and electronic engineering, mechanical, and automotive engineering, product design, digital media, computer science and informatics. Sussex was ranked 19th in the UK in the just released Complete University Guide 2017. Distinctive characteristics of the School are: creativity, interdisciplinarity, strong links with industry, and an international outlook in both research and teaching. £10m (£4.9m from HEFCE) is being invested in a new Computing, Robotics, Electronics and Mechatronics Centre (CREaM), as a result of a 60% surge in applications for the School's degrees.

The School offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in its areas of expertise, of ten in collaboration with other schools at Sussex, to create a distinctive focus that addresses the needs of industry, commerce and society. Examples include joint degrees with the MSc in Evolutionary and Adaptive Systems (EASY) that includes modules from the Schools of Engineering and Informatics and Psychology; and the MScs in Engineering Business Management, and Management of Information Technology, which were developed in collaboration with the School of Business, Management and Economics. This interdisciplinary approach also applies to our research, with current and recent externally funded projects with researchers in a wide range of other subject areas including: geomorphology, media practice, medical imaging, neuroscience, anthropology, English literature, epidemiology, geography, international development, mathematics, psychiatry, psychology and sociology.
CORE JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Research Fellow in Digital Publishing and Data Visualization

Grade: Research Fellow I, Grade 7

School: History, Art History and Philosophy / Engineering & Informatics / Sussex Humanities Lab

Location: HAHP (Arts A) / E&I (Chichester I)

Responsible to: Director of SHL through to Heads of School

Direct reports: n/a

Key contacts: Members of research group, members of faculty within the Schools 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 and in collaboration with others, as appropriate, depending on the size and scope of the bid.

2. To contribute to School and/or SHL teaching activities to a maximum of 0.1 fte.

   Specifically in this role:

3. To collaborate with other SHL staff in the creation of innovative web resources and sites, including the design and implementation of public facing web sites.

4. To contribute to the Sussex Humanities Lab research cultures.

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 Assist other Lab staff in designing and implementing public facing websites.

   1.3 Conduct research projects individually and in collaboration with others.

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

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

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

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

1.9 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 Head of SHL and/or Head of School.

4. Role-specific duties

4.1 Use specialist knowledge in one or more areas related to open digital publishing to produce high quality collaborative and individual research that promotes interdisciplinary and innovative research.

4.2 Use specialist knowledge of interactive data visualisation tools in support of SHL projects.

4.3 Co-develop fundable research projects in areas of relevance to the Lab – including the co-design of research bids, the implementation of research projects, publishing appropriate outputs, and pursuing impact.

4.4 Undertake academic administration for research projects as required, including for instance academic co-ordination of large bids.

4.5 Develop research networks and undertake research network activities as required.

4.6 Play a full part in the life of the Lab – including, for instance, through collaborating with other post-doctoral fellows, and the co-development of seminar and other programmes.
4.7 Work on specific Lab projects as required.

4.8 Attend and play a full role in the formal programmes of SHL.

4.8 Develop research skills and contribute to relevant academic research administration duties within the relevant School as required.

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 in the area of the Digital Humanities broadly defined.

3. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, and in a range of online formats, 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. Evidence of sustained engagement with digital projects, including a proven ability to create interactive visualisations for large data sets.

2. An ability to design and create effective data architectures.

3. Experience in and knowledge of specialist methods used in digital publishing.

4. Specialist knowledge and active engagement with in one or more area of work of the expanded digital humanities.

5. A developing track record of published work.

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.

Desirable Role Specific Criteria

1. Experience of teaching in higher education

2. Evidence of successful grant capture
3. Experience of inter-disciplinary work.
4. Experience of open/networked forms of publishing and social media engagement.