



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in the Community Value of Traditional Retail Markets,
Faculty of Environment



Salary: Grade 7 (£32,548 – £38,833 p.a.)

Due to funding restrictions it is unlikely that we will be able to offer above spine point 33 (£35,550 p.a.)

Reference: ENVGE1068

Closing date: 17 December 2017

Interviews are expected to be held on Tuesday 9 January 2018

Fixed term for 30 months (external funding), available from January 2018

Research Fellow in the Community Value of Traditional Retail Markets, School of Geography, Faculty of Environment

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a background in human geography, planning or social sciences? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

You will work with a team of researchers and practitioners in the UK looking to critically investigate and enhance the community value of Traditional Retail Markets (TRM). By TRM we refer to indoor or outdoor, permanent or itinerant gatherings of sellers and buyers of which there are more than 1,200 in the UK with 32,000 traders. Although TRM play an important role in towns and cities across the UK, particularly for vulnerable communities looking for affordable food and workspaces, a variety of pressures are putting their social, cultural and economic value under threat.

The research team is led by [Dr Sara Gonzalez](#) in Leeds with co-Investigators Prof Sophie Watson at the Open University, the New Economics Foundation and the trade association NMTF. The team combines critical urban studies scholars with retail geographers, practitioners in community economics and a national trade association. Within this team, you will be primarily involved in the collection, analysis and dissemination of qualitative primary and secondary data and the development of excellent academic and non-academic outputs.

You will have significant experience in qualitative research, working with a variety of stakeholders, a developing track record of high impact publications, excellent communication skills and an understanding of the current situation and pressures affecting urban spaces.

For more information on the project see:

<https://www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/research/sjcc/projects/understanding-and-enhancing-the-community-value-of-traditional-retail-markets-in-uk-cities/>

What does the role entail?

As Research Fellow, your main duties will include:



- Working with, and in support of, Dr Gonzalez’s research project and the rest of the team to ensure the project is successfully completed;
- Generating and pursuing original research ideas in the area of community value of Traditional Retail Markets;
- Helping to generate research objectives and proposals and contributing to setting the direction of the research project and team including, where appropriate preparing proposals for funding in collaboration with colleagues;
- Leading on the design, organisation and administration of interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders in the Retail Markets’ sector;
- Contributing to the design and delivery of a series of large scale surveys of market users, in conjunction with external contractors;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and relating such evaluations appropriately to the work of the project;
- Communicating and presenting research results through publications (including academic papers and non-academic stakeholder reports) or other recognised forms of output;
- Preparing papers for publication in leading international journals and independently writing reports;
- Working both independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers, engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues as appropriate;
- Contributing to the research culture of the School, where appropriate;
- Contributing to the training of both undergraduate and postgraduate students, where appropriate, including assisting with the supervision of projects in areas relevant to the project.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

What will you bring to the role?

As Research Fellow you will have:

- PhD (or close to completion) in human geography, urban studies, planning, sociology, or a closely allied discipline;



- A background in the study of urban, community, public and/or retail spaces;
- Demonstrated experience of conducting qualitative research and resulting data;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines and work effectively under pressure;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders, in particular community groups and practitioners;
- Proven ability to manage competing demands effectively, responsibly and without close support;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development;
- An emerging track record of high quality, publications in social sciences;
- An understanding of the impact agenda in research.

You may also have

- Experience in community and/or participatory research;
- Experience in the writing and publication of accessible and non-academic outputs;
- Knowledge of the Traditional Retail Market sector;
- Knowledge in the anonymisation and archiving of qualitative research data;
- Knowledge of large quantitative surveys and/or the collection or analysis of quantitative spatial data.

How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by 23.59 (UK time) on the advertised closing date.

Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

Associate Professor Sara Gonzalez

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 6639

Email: s.gonzalez@leeds.ac.uk



Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Environment](#).

Find out more about [Athena Swan](#) in the Faculty.

Find out more about our [School](#).

Working at Leeds

You can find out more about our generous benefits package and more about what it is like to work at the University and live in the Leeds area on our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

Candidates with disabilities

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at disclosure@leeds.ac.uk.

Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

A criminal record check is not required for this position, however, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be, in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information.

