



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, School of Performance and Cultural Industries, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures



Salary: Grade 7 (£33,199 – £39,609 p.a. pro rata)

Reference: AHCP1014

Closing date: 15 October 2018

Part time, 60% of full time

Fixed-term from 1 January 2019 until 30 September 2020

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow

School of Performance and Cultural Industries (PCI)

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures

Project title: Cultural Participation; stories of success, histories of failure (funded by the AHRC)

Are you an experienced creative practitioner and researcher, with experience of conducting practice-led research? Do you have a track record of professional creative practice, with the ability to employ narrative formats that have the capacity for reproduction/dissemination? Do you possess excellent interpersonal and team-working skills and the ability to work with colleagues from academic institutions and non-academic organisations?

Applications are invited for a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow to work on a £250K project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). You will be part of a project team alongside Dr Leila Jancovich (Principal Investigator) and Dr David Stevenson (Co-investigator) focusing on narratives of failure within cultural participation policies.

The way in which cultural organisations and projects apply for funding and are evaluated means that stories of failure are largely overlooked and even suppressed in the dominant discourses about state supported cultural participation projects. This is further exacerbated by the state of financial precarity in which many artists and organisations permanently function. As a result, there is limited capacity for learning and change in the field of cultural policy. In contrast, this research project is founded on theories about the value of recognising, understanding and learning from failure in policymaking. It seeks to move on from critiquing the outcomes of existing cultural policy to a more explicit focus on why cultural policy appears so difficult to change. It will do so by focusing on failure as something positive that must be honestly acknowledged, at an individual and organisational level, if cultural policy is to change. Specifically, it will explore cultural participation projects via the stories that are told about them, by a range of different agents. It will consider by whom they are told, and for what purposes. It will examine how the construction of these stories may be contributing towards the calcification of cultural policy outlined above.



An experienced creative practitioner and researcher, you will play a major role in the implementation of the practice-led dimension of the project, working closely with the PI and Co-I. You will be specifically responsible for the creation of a creative output that should challenge the dominant narrative about success and failure in UK cultural policy. With a PhD in related area and/or equivalent, relevant professional experience as a creative practitioner, you will have experience of conducting practice-led research alongside a developed methodological awareness of this kind of research. You must have a track record of professional creative practice employing narrative formats that have the capacity for reproduction/dissemination, for example: video production, graphic novels, or creative writing.

You will be based at University of Leeds, though the project will require travel both within the UK and internationally.

Further information can be found in the Additional Information document.

What does the role entail?

As a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, your main duties will include to:

- Assist in the planning and delivery of research activity that will contribute towards the overall aims of the project;
- Lead in the development and documentation of the practice-led dimension of the research project;
- Independently produce a narrative based creative output that will tell an 'alternative story' about cultural participation policies and projects that highlights the differences, disparity and contradictions with the dominant stories of cultural policy;
- Independently prepare research papers and reports for dissemination/publication, and present findings to academic and non-academic audiences;
- Assist in the preparation, organisation, management, and delivery of academic and public project research outputs, events, and other relevant materials, including public engagement events;
- Co-ordinate day-to-day project work under the supervision of the Principal Investigator and Co-investigator, ensuring that good progress is maintained against the project timeline, and make suggestions for improvement in meeting objectives;
- Maintain the project website ensuring that content is regularly updated;



- Manage the project social media accounts to maximize public interest and engagement in the project;
- Contribute to setting the direction of the research project and team, and to decisions affecting the project that could endure for the medium term;
- Participate proactively as a member of the team, contributing to the administration and management of research as appropriate, and providing general research assistance to the Principal Investigator and Co-investigator as required by the project as it evolves;
- Develop and progress a high-quality personal publication plan (including practice-led outputs) and take a role in preparing and supporting applications for future funding as appropriate, with the aim of developing your research;
- Be committed to good practice in research and scholarship, maintaining up-to-date subject knowledge and understanding within the field, and continuous improvement and professional development.

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 a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, you will have:

- A PhD in a relevant subject area (such as cultural policy or participatory arts practice) and/or equivalent, relevant professional experience as a creative practitioner;
- Proven expertise in regards to cultural participation policies, projects, and practices;
- Proven expertise in conducting practice-led research and a developed methodological awareness of this kind of research;
- Experience in liaising with arts organisations and/or funders and/or policymakers;
- A track record of professional arts practice that has involved the creation of original, narrative based artistic outputs;
- Experience of digital dissemination of cultural practice;
- A network of contacts within the UK cultural sector;



- Experience in documenting complex practice-led research projects and in eliciting robust feedback from participants;
- Excellent IT skills;
- Ability to work independently, under pressure and to deadlines;
- Excellent interpersonal and team working skills, with the ability to work effectively with colleagues from a wide range of academic institutions and non-academic partner organisations;
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively to a range of audiences including academics, the general public and professional organisations;
- A willingness to undertake training and professional development opportunities;
- The ability to travel within the UK and internationally, if required.

You may also have:

- Experience of working in interdisciplinary contexts;
- Experience of social media marketing and arts promotion;
- Experience of conference organisation and public-engagement activities;
- Experience of attracting funding for arts projects and liaising with arts funding bodies.

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:

Dr Leila Jancovich

Email: L.Jancovich@leeds.ac.uk



Additional information

Working at Leeds

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work 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 page.

