



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow on the ERC-funded project Group
Thinking: New Foundations



Salary: Grade 7 (£33,199 - £39,609)

Reference: AH CPR1022

Closing date: 5 February 2019

Fixed Term 4 Years

Start date 1st September 2019

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow on the ERC-funded project Group Thinking: New Foundations, School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures

Are you an outstanding researcher in philosophy or related area? Do you have a developing research record and an ability to work as part of a research team? Are you keen to work on a ground-breaking research project funded by the European Research Council?

We are looking for talented researchers to join the ERC-funded project Group Thinking: New Foundations (2019-2024), led by Prof. J. Robert G. Williams. This project explores group thought: its nature, and its significance for explanatory projects inside and outside philosophy. It seeks to reveal the underlying unity between the facts that constitute the beliefs and desires of individuals, and the facts that constitute the beliefs and desires of groups. It will provide criteria for demarcating which groups genuinely have beliefs and desires, distinguishing this situation from circumstances when attributing beliefs and desires is mere “loose talk”. The aim is new and rigorous foundations for theory and for public discourse about group belief and desire.

The project draws on several fields of philosophy including:

- Philosophy of mind and language (e.g. metasemantics, metaphysics of mental content, collective intentionality, group attitudes in psychological theory).
- Metaphysics (e.g. social ontology, personal identity, group persistence).
- Formal Epistemology (e.g. representation theorems, social choice, analysis of common knowledge, judgement aggregation)
- Philosophy of action (e.g. nature and grounding of intention, collective action).
- Philosophy of normativity (e.g. nature of reasons and rationality, group reasons)
- Ethics/political philosophy (e.g. group attitudes and duties, legitimacy, complicity).

You will have a PhD (by start of post) in philosophy or an allied discipline. As one of two postdocs involved in the project, you will be an integral part of a eight-member project



team, pursuing independent work related to the overall project theme. You will also work as a research assistant to the PI, and will be expected to be involved in planning and running collaborative activities of the project group, as well as undertaking administrative work associated with the project.

You will be based at the University of Leeds and will be expected to take an active role in the overall research life and culture of the department. There will be opportunity for career development by undertaking a small amount of teaching and administration roles related to project themes.

We particularly welcome applications from candidates belonging to groups that have been traditionally underrepresented in philosophy, including but not limited to women and ethnic minorities.

What does the role entail?

As a post-doctoral research fellow, your main duties will include:

- Developing and publishing research related to the project themes.
- Working as research assistant to the Principal Investigator (e.g., produce literature reviews).
- Organising project meetings, workshops and conferences in liaison with PI and postgraduate students.
- Maintaining records of project finances.
- Undertaking limited teaching in project-related areas, by negotiation.

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?

You will have:

- A PhD (or very near to completion by start of post) in philosophy or allied discipline.
- A background in areas of philosophy related to the project.
- Outstanding research ability in philosophy.
- The ability to work individually and as part of a group.



- Familiarity with Microsoft Office programmes such as Word and Excel; Powerpoint; Outlook (or close equivalents); the capacity to interact with a virtual learning environment; and basic web skills.
- Strong planning and reporting skills.
- Strong interpersonal and team-working skills.
- Effective communication skills (including a high standard of written English).

It would be desirable to have:

- Expertise in social and political philosophy or philosophy of collective intentionality.
- Knowledge of relevant work in disciplines relevant to project themes, for example linguistics, cognitive science or psychology.
- Experience of publishing academic research.
- Experience of project management
- Experience of web design.
- Experience of conference/workshop organization.

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.

Please upload the following as 4 separate documents:

1. A cover letter, which should specify areas of specialisation and areas of competence, as well as a PhD completion date (or expected completion date).
2. A standard C.V., including a list of peer-reviewed publications.
3. A research writing sample (maximum 10,000 words).
4. A research proposal (maximum 1000 words) describing a programme of research complementary to the project aims.



Contact information

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

Professor J. Robert G. Williams

Email: J.R.G.Williams@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures](#)

Find out more about the [School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science](#)

Find out more about our [Research and associated facilities](#)

We welcome applications from international candidates. To find out more about the support offered to international staff at the University of Leeds, please [click here](#)

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.

