



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

**Postdoctoral Research Assistant for Animist Engagements: Creativity, Ecology and Indigeneity, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures**



**Salary: Grade 6 (£27,025– £32,236 p.a. pro rata)**

**Reference: AHCEN1027**

**Closing date: 22 July 2019**

**Part time, 32% of full time (equivalent to 12 hours per week)**

**Fixed-term 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020**

## **Postdoctoral Research Assistant**

### **School of English, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures**

**Do you have a doctorate that engages with questions of animism and animacy? Would you like to be involved in a cross-disciplinary series of seminars, workshops and colloquia exploring how renewed academic, environmental and artistic interest in animism intersects with the practices and beliefs of indigenous peoples? Would you like to help shape future research initiatives in this area?**

**Project Title:** 'Animist Engagements: Creativity, Ecology and Indigeneity.'

We are looking to appoint a postdoctoral research assistant to support an interdisciplinary Sadler Seminar Series entitled 'Animist Engagements: Creativity, Ecology and Indigeneity.' The series seeks to take stock of the renewed interest in animism in fields as diverse as anthropology, literary and cultural studies, ecology, religious studies, law, philosophy, postcolonial studies and performance studies. Animist practices and philosophies would seem to offer salutary alternatives to the processes of objectification and deanimation that characterise humanity's relationship to nature in the Anthropocene. But how precisely are we to engage with animism without turning its adherents into the objects of academic enquiry? How might we collaborate with animist practitioners in order to form a fluid collective in which we all become co-actors? You will be centrally involved not only in helping run the seminar series but in setting up this fluid collective and in establishing the terms of its engagement.

With a PhD in an area related to animism (or a PhD near to completion, i.e. thesis submitted), you will have experience in running, or helping to run, reading groups, colloquia, performances and conferences. You will also have experience in designing and curating websites.

### **What does the role entail?**

As a Postdoctoral Research Assistant your main duties will include:

- Working with the other members of the research team to identify connections between the different strands of research;



- Working both independently and as part of a wider team of researchers and stakeholders;
- Designing and curating a website drawing together animist scholars and practitioners from around the world;
- Coordinating the first six months of the seminar series;
- Helping set up a poetry and animism event in conjunction with the Leeds Poetry Centre and Peepal Tree Press;
- Helping plan a symposium on 'Animist Ecologies' in conjunction with the School of English Environmental Humanities Research Group;
- Continually updating your knowledge, understanding and skills in the research field;
- Exploring follow up funding initiatives both for yourself and for the emergent animist collective.

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 Postdoctoral Research Assistant you will have:

- A PhD (or a PhD near to completion, i.e. thesis submitted) in an area related to animism;
- A research interest in an area related to animism and some experience of communicating your research findings;
- Experience in running, or helping run, reading groups, colloquia, performances and conferences and of promotion events;
- Experience in designing and curating websites;
- Excellent organisational skills; able to prioritise own tasks and meet agreed deadlines;
- Excellent communication skills, with a high standard of written and spoken English;
- Excellent interpersonal skills; able to work positively with a wide range of people, including academic colleagues, external groups and stakeholders;
- Willingness to contribute to, and to enhance, the research activities of the project team;
- The ability to work as part of a team and independently, as required;



- Awareness of and sensitivity towards diversity issues or working in culturally diverse contexts.

## 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 Sam Durrant, Associate Professor in Postcolonial Literature and Critical Theory, School of English.**

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 4768

Email: [s.r.durrant@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:s.r.durrant@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](mailto: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.

