



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Post-doctoral Research Fellow,

School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science



Salary: Grade 7 (£33,199 - £39,609 pro rata) commencing salary will not exceed £34,189 pro rata due to funding restrictions

Reference: AH CPR1029

Closing date: 7 August 2019

0.6 FTE Fixed-term for two years

Post-doctoral Research Fellow for 'Thinking Through Extinction' project

**School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science
Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Cultures**

Are you a researcher interested in the philosophical, cultural and / or religious dimension of the ecological and climate crisis? Have you completed or are you nearing completion of a PhD in an area related to any of the following: Environmental Ethics / Philosophy, Religious Studies, Environmental Humanities, Animal Studies, Extinction Studies?

This is an exciting opportunity to work on the AHRC-funded research grant, 'Thinking Through Extinction' (Part of the EU funded consortium *Extinction as Cultural Heritage?*) alongside principal investigator Dr Stefan Skrimshire (University of Leeds), project partner Manchester Museum, and a resident artist.

This project addresses the problem of how the current 'mass extinction event' is communicated and encountered in public spaces. There is a long history of representation of species extinction in museums through, for example, fossil displays and taxidermy of extinct and endangered species. Increasingly there has been an effort to 'educate' the public on the link between biodiversity loss and the threat to human civilization. But it is far from clear how the concept of a global extinction crisis, including possible ecological, economic and civilizational collapse, can and ought to be displayed, narrated, and a public response sought. Our underlying question will be: how does knowledge of global extinction feed into the personal and collective imaginations of the future, and how does that imagination find expression? The project relies heavily on co-creation and collaboration through workshops, co-authoring, artist commissioning, and public involvement.



What does the role entail?

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

- Coordinating and helping deliver a programme of activity at Manchester Museum, involving academics, a commissioned artist and members of the public;
- Designing, implementing and updating a basic project website (Wordpress or similar);
- Contributing to the communication of the project aims, and project results, to non-academic audiences;
- Publishing 2 articles; one for a peer-reviewed journal and one for an art writing platform;
- Commissioning and co-editing a collection of essays (book or journal special edition);
- Contributing to setting the direction of the research project and team;
- Proactively considering the work being done and making suggestions for improvement in meeting objectives, including addressing others' concerns etc.;
- Continually updating their knowledge and understanding within the fields of Environmental Humanities, Extinction Studies, and Environmental Philosophy;
- Conducting all professional responsibilities in a manner consistent with the School's commitment to equality, inclusion, and dignity and mutual respect.

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:

- PhD or near to completion - meaning after the student has handed in the initial version of their thesis, in Philosophy, Theology, Religious Studies, Cultural Theory, or a related discipline;
- A strong research track record in Environmental Humanities, Environmental Ethics / Philosophy, and / or Extinction Studies;
- Track record in inter-disciplinary research;
- Experience in working with and for non-academic publics;



- Experience in successful project and / or public event management;
- Strong time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet deadlines and manage own workload effectively without close supervision;
- Proven ability to work well both individually and in a team.

You may also have:

- Experience of working alongside artists or arts organisations;
- Experience of working with museums and / or galleries.

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 Stefan Skrimshire

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 5266

Email: s.skrimshire@leed.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.

