



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

**Research Associate (The Political Works of Richard Brinsley Sheridan),
Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures**



Salary: Grade 7 (£33,797– £40,322 p.a.)

It is likely that an appointment will be made higher than £35,845 p.a., since there are funding limitations which dictate the level at which the appointment can start.

Reference: AHCEN1034

Fixed-term from 1 February 2020 (until 31 January 2021)

We will consider job share and flexible working arrangements

Research Associate

School of English, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures

Do you have a research interest in the interconnection of eighteenth-century politics and culture? Would you like to join a team of researchers working to develop a scholarly edition of one of the most important parliamentarians of the Georgian era?

Richard Brinsley Sheridan was a Member of Parliament for nearly thirty years. During that long career, he was regarded as one of the greatest orators the Commons had yet seen and a significant opposition voice. Sheridan's talents ensured that newspapers printed lengthy extracts from his speeches, clearly aware that his verbal skills and political acuity made for good copy. Sheridan was therefore prominent not only in the House of Commons, but on the pages of the morning and evening papers. Sheridan was a tenacious supporter of liberal causes, including parliamentary reform, the abolition of slavery, press freedom, and penal reform. He was also a firm advocate of better government in Ireland and India. Sheridan's speeches now survive in many competing forms, mostly in newspapers. Our aim is to discover, edit and publish the entirety of Sheridan career, culminating in *The Political Works of Richard Brinsley Sheridan* to be published by Oxford University Press.

Your role will be to identify and collect speeches and other material; undertake textual collation of printed books, newspapers, and manuscripts; assist in the preparation of copy-text; compile contextual materials for the edition, and assist with the work of editorial checking and correction.

You will have a doctorate in eighteenth-century or early nineteenth-century studies with experience of working with books, newspapers, and manuscripts from the period. Knowledge of British politics and political culture, including parliamentary debates, during the period 1780-1816 is essential.

What does the role entail?

You will work on the Leverhulme Trust-funded Project, 'The Political Work of Richard Brinsley Sheridan' under the direction of Professor Robert W Jones. As a Research Associate on the Sheridan Project your main duties will include:



- Searching newspaper holdings, Hansard, and other archives and collections, in order to identify potential copy-texts and alternative versions of Sheridan's speeches from the last phase of his career, c.1801-1812;
- Examining MSS which the project has gathered from the British Library, Harvard, Yale and Princeton, establishing their relationship to speeches found in the printed archive;
- Helping prepare final text for the OUP edition of the Political Works of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, including textual collation of variants, based on transcriptions of the Sheridan's printed texts, contemporary newspaper reports, and manuscripts; and assisting the project team with checks for accuracy and consistency;
- Developing commentary materials (including glossaries) for use in the printed edition and establishing a consolidated bibliography;
- Giving technical support to other members of the team, where appropriate, including the safe storage of project data on the project N: Drive;
- Participating in regular meetings with the project team;
- You may also be asked to visit archives within the UK, most likely in London and Cardiff.

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 Research Associate, you will have:

- A doctorate in Eighteenth or early Nineteenth-Century Studies;
- Knowledge of eighteenth-century political and parliamentary culture in Britain during the period 1780-1816;
- Experience of working with eighteenth-century books, newspapers and manuscripts (including online);
- Ability to produce high-quality research materials independently, including an ability to manage scholarly data in a variety of digital formats, including audio files;
- 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;
- Ability to work as part of a team;
- Willingness to travel in the UK.

You may also have:

- Understanding of the principles of textual bibliography and textual collation;
- Some experience of organizing or participating in academic and public events;
- Some experience of maintaining web-based resources;
- Some experience in producing academic podcasts.

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:

Professor Robert W Jones

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 4747

Email: r.w.jones@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

This post is funded by the Leverhulme Trust as part of a Research Project Grant awarded to Prof. Robert W Jones in 2016 (RPG-2016-106: The Political Work of Richard Brinsley Sheridan). The research produced during the project will conclude with the publication of the *Political Works of Richard Brinsley Sheridan* (Oxford University Press) from 2021.

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.

