



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Assistant: Platform Work and Protest, Centre for Employment Relations, Innovation and Change (CERIC), Leeds University Business School



Salary: Grade 6 (£27,511– £32,817 p.a.)

Reference: LUBSC1450

Fixed-term for 9 months

We will consider job share and flexible working arrangements

Research Assistant: Platform Work and Protest

Centre for Employment Relations, Innovation and Change (CERIC), Leeds University Business School

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a research background in employment or industrial relations, sociology of work, or other fields related to work and employment? Do you have an interest in platform work? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

The Centre for Employment Relations Innovation and Change (CERIC) is a leading research centre investigating the changing nature of work and employment and employment relations. It houses a critical mass of internationally regarded researchers that produce intellectually challenging work with genuine policy and practitioner impact. CERIC is looking for a research assistant to support Dr. Vera Trappmann and Dr. Charles Umney in their research into globally mapping labour protest among platform workers, the Leeds Index.

This research is focused on developing a database of protest events across the globe and creating an online tool that allows visualisation of protest. You will support this work through searching for protest events, coding them, doing background research about platform companies and by helping to improve and test the tool, and promoting it.

What does the role entail?

As a Research Assistant you will work with the research team and your main responsibilities will be to:

- Work flexibly to provide support for CERIC academics undertaking research in the area of labour protest and platform work;
- Conduct research interviews as required with platforms;
- Contribute to the development of a database of platform worker protest events;
- Gathering, coding, interpreting the data;
- Undertake a literature review, mapping union policy documentation in the relevant countries;



- Writing up the results of this research and contributing to research reports/publications, consulting colleagues for advice as appropriate;
- Presenting findings of research e.g. preparing papers, making presentations with guidance and advice as appropriate;
- In collaboration with academic colleagues generating original ideas based on the outcome of the analysis and interpretation;
- Contribute to the development of a collaborative grant proposal;
- Participate in and contribute to the research culture at CERIC, including regular attendance at workshops, meetings, collaborative initiatives, blog writing, and external conferences;
- Develop career plans via ongoing, structured mentoring, with appropriate colleagues within CERIC.

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 Assistant you will have:

- A Masters in sociology, in employment or industrial relation, or other fields related to work and employment (or equivalent professional experience);
- Experience of research dissemination, such as articles submitted to journals, conference papers, workshop presentations, book reviews or blog;
- Well-developed methodological skills in the conduct of Excel, SPSS, and large datasets;
- Expertise on platform work and political protest movements;
- Experience of social research survey design, administration or analysis;
- Ability to produce high-quality research materials independently, including an ability to manage scholarly data in a variety of digital formats;
- Excellent presentation skills, both in terms of written work and oral delivery;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines and work effectively under pressure;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.



You may also have:

- An ability to speak German or Spanish at an intermediate level in addition to English.

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.

In addition to the application form candidates will be asked to submit

- Full Curriculum vitae, including any examples of academic awards and prizes;
- A 2 page statement why you apply for the job;
- Example of written work, such as a PhD chapter or draft article.

Contact information

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

Dr Vera Trappmann

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 1119

Email: V.Trappmann@leeds.ac.uk

Dr Charles Umney

Email: C.R.Umney@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.

