



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Assistant in Content Regulation of Online Platforms
Faculty of Social Sciences



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

The salary spine point is subject to external funding conditions, which will limit the salary at which an appointment can be made to a maximum of £30,046 p.a.

Reference: ESLLW1141

Fixed term for 5 months

Research Assistant in Content Regulation of Online Platforms

School of Law, Faculty of Social Sciences

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a background in online platforms, digital rights, and online policy? Do you want to work on a project that brings together one of the largest online platforms and one of the UKs leading research intensive Universities?

You will work with Dr Konstantinos Stylianou, Associate Professor of Competition Law and Regulation, and Dr Nicolo Zingales, Professor of Information Law and Regulation at Fundação Getúlio Vargas, to support, develop and collaborate on their Facebook-funded research project, 'The Co-Evolution of Facebook's Content Policies and International Instruments on Freedom of Expression'.

This project tracks the parallel evolution of Facebook's content policies and community standards alongside that of international legal instruments on freedom of expression. The goal is to map not only how Facebook has expanded and adapted over time its content policies to the diverse requirements of the regions it is active in around the world, but also how the international legal standards (including both soft and hard law) have themselves changed over time.

The project starts from the observation that the priorities around effective content rules and norms are constantly evolving and shifting to new areas of concern and controversy. From terrorism, to misinformation, to gender equality and hate speech, optimizing a platform's content policies to deal simultaneously with very different types of speech and expression is challenging, particularly when the standards and expectations are themselves changing. The project aims to provide a historical perspective through the building of an (empirical) database of Facebook's changes in its content policies through time, taking into account the multiple facets of freedom of expression, and to analyse those changes to identify areas that can be improved.

With a relevant degree and research experience, you will support existing research as well as conduct new research and develop new research skills. You will possess excellent analytical and writing skills and the ability to deal with a variety of tasks to set deadlines. The ability to work alone or as part of a team are essential, along with strong organisational skills.



What does the role entail?

As a Research Assistant your main duties will include:

- Working with and supporting Dr Konstantinos Stylianou and Dr Nicolo Zingales on their research agenda, research project and project report;
- Being an active researcher by collecting and analysing data;
- Being involved in presenting research findings to academic and professional audiences and communicating complex data in accessible ways;
- Under guidance, drafting project summaries and analyses relevant to the project;
- Receiving, where needed, appropriate training on research and analysis skills and methods;
- Balancing the competing pressures of research demands and deadlines.

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 degree in the field of law, public policy, regulation or related;
- Familiarity with online platform regulation and digital rights (particularly free speech);
- Good research skills, preferably supported by training in social science methods;
- Excellent organisational skills with a demonstrable ability to manage time effectively, to prioritise tasks and meet internal and external deadlines;
- A high level of interpersonal and communication skills, including ability to communicate effectively with the academic lead researcher and other stakeholders as appropriate;
- Excellent writing skills in English;
- Good general IT skills;
- Ability to work independently and on own initiative;



You may also have:

- Quantitative research and analysis skills;
- Experience of communicating with academic networks and supporting research grant proposals.

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 Konstantinos Stylianou, Associate Professor in Competition Law and Regulation

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 9806

Email: k.stylianou@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

About the job

You will be responsible to the Dean of Faculty and report to the Head of School.

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.

