UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow

School of Media and Communication

Salary: Grade 7 (£33,797 - £40,332 p.a.)

Reference: AHCMC1047

Fixed-term: 1st October 2020 to 30th September 2023

Research Fellow
School of Media and Communication, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a background in digital media studies, journalism studies, social semiotics, political communication, or visual communication? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research-intensive Universities?

The School of Media and Communication wishes to recruit a fixed-term Research Fellow working full-time from 1st October 2020 until 30th September 2023.

You will join *Generic Visuals in the News: The Role of Stock Photos and Simple Data Visualizations in Assembling Publics*, a research project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, which will explore how generic visuals assemble political publics. Do stock photographs and simple data visualizations - which are increasingly ubiquitous and understudied - bring groups of people together around shared interests and concerns? Do they activate citizens to care about particular issues and lead to specific forms of political engagement? *Generic Visuals in the News* will use mixed methods, combining ethnographic fieldwork, focus groups, interviews, and social semiotic analysis.

Working with the Principal Investigator, Professor Christopher Anderson, and Co-Investigators Dr Giorgia Aiello and Professor Helen Kennedy (University of Sheffield), you will carry out research in newsrooms, analyse generic visuals, and interview members of the public in order to explore how they respond to generic visuals in the news. You will be a key member of the research team with the chance to generate significant knowledge sitting at the intersection of digital media studies, visual communication, political communication, and journalism studies. You will provide research support to the project as needed, and you will also receive significant mentoring from a variety of individual and institutional sources.

What does the role entail?

As Research Fellow, your main duties will include:

- Responsibility for sing a variety of research methods to analyse audiences and visual media texts using the texts themselves (specifically, the semiotic properties of generic visual images) and the production and impact of them.

- Administrative tasks associated with the research project, including project planning, progress updates and dissemination, as well as the organization of advisory board meetings and public events.
- The organization of workshops and events associated with the research project together with the PI and Co-Is.
- Collaborative preparation of papers for publication.
- Planning appropriately to ensure the project meets key milestones by taking responsibility for the management of the project administration; leading on the logistics associated with project workshops, board meetings, and events; and ensuring all stakeholders are aware of the project's progress in a timely manner.
- The ongoing review and synthesis of existing literature within the field, including academic research and policy documents, to be regularly communicated to the research team.
- Utilising a variety of networking methods with a range of stakeholders in order to maximise impact of research and opportunities for dissemination.
- The management of the project website and social media accounts.
- Working both independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers, engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues as appropriate;
- Contributing to the research culture of the School, where appropriate;
- Contributing to the training of both undergraduate and postgraduate students, where appropriate, including assisting with the supervision of projects in areas relevant to the project.

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 Research Fellow, you will have:

- A first degree and PhD (or close to completion) in Media and Communication Studies, Sociology or a closely allied discipline.
- Knowledge or expertise in a relevant area (e.g. digital media studies, journalism studies, social semiotics, political communication, visual communication).
- The proven ability to generate academic peer reviewed outputs and/or industry reports and/or policy briefings in one of the areas identified above.
- 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.
- The proven ability to manage competing demands effectively, responsibly and without close support.
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team.
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- Experience of collaboration with media industries (e.g. journalism, visual content providers).
- Experience of managing a research project website (e.g. WordPress) and a social media account (e.g. Twitter).
- Evidence of project administration.

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:

Christopher Anderson, Professor of Media and Communication, Director of Postgraduate Research

Email C.W.Anderson@leeds.ac.uk

Click here for further information about working at the University of Leeds www.leeds.ac.uk/info/20025/university_jobs

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.