UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Postdoctoral Research Fellow (Society of Authors), School of English, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures

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

Reference:AHCEN1039

Fixed-term for 48 months from 1 October 2020

This position is full time. We will consider flexible working arrangements

Postdoctoral Research Fellow (Society of Authors)
School of English, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures

Do you have a research interest in nineteenth or early-twentieth century print culture and the history of authorship? Would you like to join a team of researchers exploring the origins and early history of the first professional literary association in Britain?

The Incorporated Society of Authors, founded in 1884 by the novelist Walter Besant (and continuing in existence to this day), occupied a prominent place in late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century literary culture, attracting widespread attention for its campaigns in defence of 'literary property'. In addition to the activities of Besant and its management committee, the Society counted many well-known, as well as less familiar, literary figures of the period amongst its membership. This project will examine the early history of the Society of Authors, from its formation in the 1880s through to the beginning of WW1. Within this key period, the project will study how the Society operated as a professional association and the ways in which its role was conceived and contested; examine its under-appreciated role within the history of copyright law and debates on intellectual property; and document the material support which it provided to members. The project will be the first academic study to conduct sustained research on the Society's large unpublished Archive in the British Library, as well as examining its extensive body of published work.

Your role will be to identify and collate key documentary sources on the Society's early history, consulting physical and online archives; to support the preparation of a collaborative scholarly history of the Society and an edited anthology of primary sources; to manage the project website and to coordinate associated research events.

Applicants will have a PhD in nineteenth or early-twentieth century literary studies or book history, with a particular interest in authorship, print culture, book history, or literary networks. You will have some experience of archival research, studying nineteenth/early-twentieth century books, periodicals, and manuscripts.

What does the role entail?

You will be working on a research project funded by the Leverhulme Trust, entitled 'The Society of Authors, 1884-1914: Professional Association and Literary Property', under the direction of Dr Richard Salmon. As a Postdoctoral Research Fellow, your main duties will include:

- Identifying and collating key documentary sources on the Society's early history, using the resources of the Brotherton Library (Leeds) and the British Library (London and Boston Spa), as well as undertaking visits to other relevant research libraries and archives as appropriate;
- Supporting the Principal Investigator (PI) and other members of the research team (Co-Is) in the preparation of a collaborative scholarly history of the Society of Authors – e.g. through undertaking independent research in the membership files of the Society's Archive for selected case-studies;
- Supporting the PI in the preparation of an edited print anthology of primary sources on the Society's early history, including transcription and annotation of manuscripts; constructing an associated searchable digital archive of sources hosted by the University of Leeds server;
- Creating and managing the project website (linked to the digital archive), including responsibility for external publicity;
- Assisting in the planning and coordination of research events linked to the project in London and Leeds (including an international conference);
- Coordinating and participating in internal team meetings and communication;
- Managing the storage of project data in line with University of Leeds protocols on research ethics;
- Generating and pursuing original research ideas in the appropriate subject area;
- Developing research objectives and proposals and contributing to setting the direction of the research project and team including, where appropriate preparing proposals for funding in collaboration with colleagues;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and relating such evaluations appropriately to your own work;
- Communicating or presenting research results through publication or other recognised forms of output.

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 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, your main duties will include:

- A doctorate in nineteenth or early-twentieth century literary studies or book history;
- Knowledge of authorship, print culture, and/or literary networks within the long nineteenth century;
- Experience of archival research, working with nineteenth or early-twentieth century books, periodicals and manuscripts (both in print and digital forms);
- Ability to produce high-quality research materials independently, including an ability to manage scholarly data in a variety of digital formats;
- 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 ability to work as part of a team;
- Willingness to travel in the UK (Please note that the timing of any research visits is flexible and open to discussion).

You may also have:

- Some experience of maintaining web-based resources;
- Some experience of organising or participating in academic and/or public events;
- A track record of scholarly publications in a related area of research.

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 Richard Salmon, School of English, University of Leeds
Email: r.salmon@leeds.ac.uk

Equality and Inclusion

We welcome and encourage applications from all sections of the community. For this role we would particularly welcome applications from the BAME community, as these groups are underrepresented within the School. We will select the best candidate solely on the basis of merit and ability to do the job.

Additional information

This post is funded by the Leverhulme Trust as part of a Research Project Grant awarded to Dr Richard Salmon and the University of Leeds in 2019 ('The Society of Authors 1884-1914: Professional Association and Literary Property'). The four year project, commencing October 2020, is led by Dr Salmon in collaboration with Co-Investigators Dr Andrew Nash (Institute of English Studies, University of London) and Professor Clare Pettitt (Kings College London).

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.