



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Computational Climate Politics

Faculty of Social Sciences / School of Politics and International Studies



Salary: Grade 7 (£37,099 - £44,263 p.a. depending on experience)

Reference: ESLPO1099

100% FTE , Fixed-term for 1+1 years to complete specific time limited work. Anticipated start date 1 October 2024

Location: University Campus (with scope for hybrid working)

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow in Computational Climate Politics

School of Politics and International Studies

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a background in computational social science (incl. mathematical modelling of social dynamic and processes) and an interest in climate politics? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research-intensive Universities?

As a Research Fellow in Computational Climate Politics you will work on the UKRI FLF project "[Understanding normative change to address the climate emergency](#)". This is a 4+3 grant, with generous funding for research and professional development of the PI (Dr Viktoria Spaiser) and their team. You will start your fellowship for the last year of the first phase of the award (first four years), with a focus on consolidating gathered results and developing an agent-based model from the gathered results. You will also be involved in a range of engagement and impact activities that are scheduled for the fourth year of the award. Moreover, you will be able to contribute to developing the extension application for the second phase of the award (three years). Given the success rate of extension applications so far, there is a very high likelihood of an extension of the award. Your position will then be extended for another year. In this first extension year, we will experiment with generating in-silico social network data using LLMs to investigate social tipping processes. At the end of the second year of the fellowship a further extension of the fellowship can be considered. Throughout your research fellowship funding is available for professional development, e.g. for attending summer schools or for developing skills and your professional profile.

What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow your main duties will include:

- Working with and in support of Dr Viktoria Spaiser's research grant to ensure the project is successfully completed;
- 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 to relate such evaluations appropriately to your own work;
- Communicating or presenting research results through publication or other recognised forms of output;
- Preparing papers for publication in leading international journals and independently writing reports;
- 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 a Research Fellow you will have:

- A first degree and PhD (or close to completion) in computational social science or a closely allied discipline (e.g. data science, applied mathematics);
- A strong background in computation, mathematical modelling, agent-based modelling, social network analysis and complexity science;
- Demonstrated experience of conducting research;
- 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;
- 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:



- A track record of successful, high quality, publications on agent-based modelling, mathematical modelling, and computational social science (e.g. large language models, social network analysis, etc.).

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 Viktoria Spaiser,
Associate Professor in Sustainability Research and Computational Social Science, PI

Email: v.spaiser@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

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

Find out more about our School – [School of Politics and International Studies](#)

Find out more about the [Faculty of Social Sciences](#).

Working at Leeds

We are a campus-based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. To find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area visit our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

Our University



As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life and from across the world. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education. Within the Faculty of Social Sciences we are dedicated to diversifying our community and we welcome the unique contributions that individuals can bring, and particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, people who belong to a minority ethnic community; people who identify as LGBT+; and disabled people. We have identified that women are currently underrepresented in this role and particularly welcome applications. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

Information for disabled candidates

Information for disabled candidates, or candidates with impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at hr@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.

