



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow, Economics Division, Leeds University Business School



Salary: Grade 7 (£30,728 – £36,661 p.a.)

Reference: LUBSC1238

Closing date: 23 August 2017

Fixed-term for 24 months (grant funded)

Research Fellow in the Political Economy of Robotics and Human Futures

Economics Division, Leeds University Business School

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a background in economics or political economy? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

This position is being funded under the grant “Balancing the impact of City Infrastructure Engineering on Natural systems using Robots” that has been funded by the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. This grant, known as “Self-Repairing Cities”, involves developing robotic and autonomous systems technology to maintain and repair urban infrastructure.

Your role will be to undertake research on the economic and social aspects of the self-repairing cities project under the lead supervision of Professor Gary Dymski. You will draw on and develop the explanatory power of appropriate approaches in economics and political economy to address: the implications for industrial strategy of robotics and autonomous systems in cities and towns; the distributional challenges associated with the replacement of human work; how communities and social relations can be sustained and reorganized as robotics advance; and how decisions about these changes can be fairly made, recognising changing patterns of value and distribution.

Your research will likely deploy mixed methods in order to offer depth and breadth of explanation, for example including statistical or econometric analysis of secondary data; primary survey data collection and analysis; as well as qualitative research based on interviews or focus groups. You will enter a thriving interdisciplinary community of scholars within the Faculty and across the University of Leeds and partner Universities, connected to this and similarly ambitious projects that integrate economics and social science with engineering and technical disciplines.

What does the role entail?

As Research Fellow, your main duties will include:

- Working with and in support of Work Package 3.3 of the EPSRC “self-healing cities” research grant, under the lead supervision of Professor Gary Dymski, with co-supervisors, Professor Andrew Brown and Dr Gary Graham;



- Generating and pursuing original research ideas about the political economy of robotics, infrastructure futures, and inequality;
- Developing research objectives and proposals for funding, in collaboration with colleagues, along the lines of research identified in this overall research project;
- Identifying and applying empirical and analytical methods and techniques that advance the political economy of robotics, infrastructure futures, and inequality;
- Using evaluative methods and results obtained by other researchers to develop metrics for evaluating the work done under this project;
- Participating in interdisciplinary dialogues and idea-generation involving the several diverse disciplines involved in this overall project;
- Communicating research results through publication or other academic and policy outlets;
- Preparing papers for publication in leading 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 student training 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 economics, political economy or in a closely allied discipline;
- A strong background in empirical and theoretical methods in economics and political economy, preferably with a background in the fields of labour economics, economic development, the economics of inequality, and/or urban economics. Both mainstream and more heterodox approaches are welcome;
- A strong interest in interdisciplinary research, especially in the subject areas covered in this interdisciplinary grant;
- 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 responsibly, without close support;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development and to publishing in well-regarded economics and interdisciplinary journals.

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.

The starting date for the successful candidate is flexible; it is hoped that the personal selected for this post can commence in the autumn of 2017.

Contact information

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

Professor Gary Dymski

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 4195

Email: g.dymski@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.

