



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Post-Doctoral Research Assistant in the Militarization of Social Media/the Politics of Videogames, Faculty of Education, Social Sciences and Law



Salary: Grade 6 (£26,052 – £31,076 p.a.)

Reference: ELPO1022

Closing date: 22 August 2017

Fixed-term for 4 months

Research Assistant in the Militarization of Social Media/the Politics of Videogames

School of Politics and International Studies, Faculty of Education, Social Sciences and Law

Are you an early career researcher looking for your first challenge? Do you have an interest in the politics of social media and/or popular culture? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

You will be working with a multinational research team, based at the School of Politics and International Studies in Leeds, under the supervision of Dr Nick Robinson to conduct qualitative or quantitative research into the way in which military videogames developers make use of social media through their promotional activity, the implications of that activity, and of the way in which members of the public respond to that content through their interactions within social media.

With a successfully completed PhD (this includes work submitted for assessment, but not yet examined) in a relevant field of study, you will have research interests in aspects of the politics of social media and/or popular culture (ideally with an interest in videogames) and experience of conducting either quantitative or qualitative research. Your background may be in a range of fields, including political studies/science, international relations, sociology, economics, social policy, communications or geography, and you must be willing to work across disciplinary boundaries. You will also work with members of the School of Politics and International Studies and the international project team to organise events, assist in publishing in peer-reviewed journals and be involved in producing short reports on the research findings for various academic, professional and non-professional audiences during your time on this project.

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 is essential, as are strong organisational skills. The post may involve some travel and stays away from home, for example to participate in team meetings and/or to attend local, national or international conferences.



What does the role entail?

As a Post-Doctoral Research Assistant your main duties will include:

- Working with and supporting Dr Nick Robinson on his research agenda, research projects and publications;
- Being an active researcher, conducting research, planning and undertaking fieldwork/conferences and analysing data;
- Under guidance, drafting project reports and preparing conference talks and project report contributions;
- Being involved in presenting research findings to academic and professional audiences and communicating complex data in accessible ways;
- Assisting with developing and supporting research applications and proposals for funding in the specified research area;
- Contributing to research planning and development within the School, where appropriate;
- 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 Post-Doctoral Research Assistant you will have:

- A PhD (this includes work submitted for assessment, but not yet examined) in any relevant area of the social sciences, ideally with expertise in areas related to either videogames or popular culture or new media or social media or militarization;
- Knowledge of current academic research and policy issues relating to the themes of the project, namely videogames, popular culture, social media and militarization;
- Experience of successfully conducting qualitative or quantitative research in the field;
- Successfully completed training in social research methods, at either undergraduate or post-graduate level;



- Evidence of an ability to conduct analysis as relevant to one or more of the stated research themes, namely videogames, popular culture, social media, and/or militarization;
- Experience of presenting research findings to professional and/or academic audiences;
- 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 the ability to communicate effectively with the academic lead researcher and other stakeholders as appropriate;
- Good general IT skills;
- An ability to work independently and on own initiative;
- An ability to demonstrate judgement in planning and carrying out activities.

You may also have:

- Evidence of an awareness of current thinking on the politics of videogames;
- 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 Nick Robinson, Associate Professor

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 4790

Email: n.robinson@leeds.ac.uk



Additional information

About the role

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

Find out more about our [School](#) and [Faculty](#).

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.

