



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Critical Geographies of Queer Memorials in the USA, Poland, and the Netherlands, School of Geography



Salary: Grade 7 (£32,548 – £38,833 p.a.)

Please note that due to funding limitations an appointment is unlikely to be made above £32,548

Reference: ENVGE1061

Closing date: 21 November 2017

Fixed term for 12 months, available from 1 January 2018

Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Critical Geographies of Queer Memorials in the USA, Poland, and the Netherlands, School of Geography, Faculty of Environment

Are you a talented and ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a background in collaborative and critical qualitative research and Human Geography, Anthropology, Sociology, and/or Media, Art or Heritage Studies? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research-intensive Russell Group universities and a world-class Geography department?

You will work with the Principal Investigator, [Dr Martin Zebracki](#), and Co-Investigator, Professor Robert Vanderbeck, on the research project Queer Memorials: International Comparative Perspectives on Sexual Diversity and Social Inclusivity (QMem), funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). QMem is the first major international research project of its kind to provide significant new insights into the nature of social engagement with public material monuments that are dedicated to the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people – termed 'queer memorials'.

This research is crucial at a moment when debates are intensifying about how to commemorate LGBT history, memorialise victims of anti-LGBT violence, and promote social inclusivity through public artwork. It will internationalise the debate about memorials with sexuality content and provide novel conceptual, methodological and practical insights by drawing on case studies in three contrasting national contexts: the USA (New York City), Poland (Warsaw), and the Netherlands (Amsterdam). QMem's unique focus will critically engage with interdisciplinary scholarship to provide comparative knowledge of how queer memorials' key characteristics – location, material design, theme and symbolism – operate as sources of heated debates while reinforcing, subverting and creating social inclusions/exclusions in off-and-online worlds. The post will be based in the School of Geography at the University of Leeds. You will also spend two months in the USA (New York City) and two months in Poland (Warsaw) or the Netherlands (Amsterdam) to carry out the required research. It is essential that you are fluent in Polish and/or Dutch.

You will have a PhD or equivalent postdoctoral research experience in Human Geography, Anthropology, Sociology, and/or Media, Art or Heritage Studies. Experience of undertaking collaborative and critical qualitative research is required. A high-quality publishing track record is essential.



What does the role entail?

As Postdoctoral Research Fellow, your main duties will include:

- Working under the supervision of the investigators to deliver the aims and objectives of QMem;
- Generating and pursuing original research ideas in the subject area of critical geographies of queer memorials;
- Critically evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and relating such evaluations appropriately to your own research;
- Preparing papers with the investigators for publication in leading international journals and independently writing research summaries and reports;
- Working both independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers, engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible;
- Developing research objectives and contributing to setting the direction of the research project, where appropriate preparing proposals for funding in collaboration with the project team;
- 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 Postdoctoral Research Fellow you will have:

- A first degree and PhD degree in Human Geography, Anthropology, Sociology and/or Media, Art or Heritage Studies, or closely allied disciplines;
- A developing track record of international quality peer-reviewed publications in the appropriate subject area;
- A strong background in critical qualitative research design and execution including experience of applying mixed qualitative methods and techniques, combining textual analysis of policy and media material, observational and



visual research, in-depth interviews, focus groups and social media data analysis;

- Advanced experience with employing digital technologies in qualitative research and digital skills to conduct ethically-justified research on computer-mediated environments including those of social media;
- Ability to spend two months in the USA (New York City) and either two months in Poland (Warsaw) or the Netherlands (Amsterdam) to carry out the required research, with appropriate skills, experience, and enthusiasm to work with local LGBT populations;
- Demonstrated fluency in Polish and/or Dutch;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including presentation skills and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Evidenced ability to work and conduct research productively both individually and collaboratively in a team;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the proven ability to meet tight deadlines, work effectively under pressure, and manage competing demands effectively, responsibly and without close support.

You may also have:

- Experience with computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software (CAQDAS), NVivo 11 in particular, is desired.

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 Martin Zebracki](#)

Principal Investigator

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 3331

Email: M.M.Zebracki@leeds.ac.uk



Additional Information

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

Find out more about [Athena Swan](#) in the Faculty. Dr Zebracki is the Equality and Inclusion Leader in the School of Geography.

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

Working at Leeds

You can find out more about our generous benefits package and more about what it is like to work at the University and live 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.

