RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED STORYTELLING
REQ191062

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.

The Applied Storytelling research team (Storytelling Academy) is currently engaged on a wide number of interdisciplinary, collaborative research projects, funded by AHRC, NERC, ESRC, MRC EPSRC, and the European Commission (www.storytellingacademy.education) . All our projects explore the potential of storytelling to be applied to issues relating to the environment, education, health and social justice, and seek to introduce new voices and ways of knowing and thinking into the decision-making process. We are currently working on three major collaborative projects: two in Colombia, relating to issues around biodiversity and management of the ecosystems; and one in Kerala, Southern India, in relation to mental health literacy. We also currently engaged in sustainability projects in eastern Africa (principally in Kenya and Uganda). Much of our current work is funded through the GCRF and Newton Fund programmes. The postholder will be expected to work across the full range of our projects, where necessary, although the principal focus will be on the work in Colombia. They will have a key role in the overall development of the projects' progress as a member of the Project Team. The post holder will be able to demonstrate the ability to carry out their duties with energy, enthusiasm, efficiency and creativity.

The Research Associate will work under the supervision and direction of Professor Mike Wilson and also in communication with the wider project teams.

Job Description

1.   **Job Purpose**

To conduct community applied storytelling workshops with a range of stakeholder groups, provide post-workshop support, stakeholder engagement, narrative research and qualitative survey as part of a research team in order to achieve research outcomes which meet the objectives of the projects.
Main responsibilities:

Research and scholarship

Conduct practice-led research through community storytelling workshops and follow-up support activities with various stakeholder groups

Undertake narrative research through face-to-face and virtual stakeholder engagement in different sectors across different projects.

Analyse and interpret the results of the research and generate original ideas based on outcomes.

Undertake basic research, working both independently and as part of a larger team, for example by preparing, setting up, conducting and recording the outcome of community engagement activities; devising and leading on research interventions; analyzing data; transcribing, translating and video/audio editing; authoring and co-authoring research papers for publication and conference presentation; developing and maintaining new academic and professional networks. .

Workload and project planning

Plan own day-to-day research activity within the framework of the agreed programme and extending the programme through new initiatives, where appropriate.
Co-ordinate own work with that of others to avoid conflict or duplication of effort.
Contribute to the planning of research projects and the development of additional funding applications, including leading on these, where appropriate.

Communications
Engage with individuals and groups in communities about involvement in the projects. Facilitate science-narrative workshops, working with selected members of the project team.

Work with the Project Team in the development of narrative resources including the production of stories in multiple formats, including digital stories.

Present information on research progress and outcomes to a variety of stakeholder bodies and the wider research team. This could include making presentations at conferences.

Write up results of group research and contribute to the production of research reports and publications for different audiences.

Representing the projects and the wider work of the research team to academic and non-academic audiences and stakeholders.

Organise and attend meetings, where appropriate.

Teamwork/people management

Provide guidance line management to support/technical staff and any students who may be assisting with the research, where necessary. Actively participate as a member of a research team.

Liaison and networking

Develop and maintain internal and external networks to grow knowledge and understanding, and to form relationships for future collaboration.

Contribute to preparing proposals and applications to external bodies e.g. in relation to further funding.

Other

Conduct personal and site-based risk assessments.
Carry out administrative tasks relating to the projects.
Contribute to the academic life of the School, where appropriate, including participation in research groups and seminars, personal research planning and occasional teaching.
Carry out other tasks that may be reasonably assigned from time to time by the line manager
The purpose of this job description is to indicate the general level of duties and responsibility of the post. The detailed duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character or level of responsibility entailed.

Special Conditions

All staff have a statutory responsibility to take reasonable care of themselves, others and the environment and to prevent harm by their acts or omissions. All staff are therefore required to adhere to the University's Health, Safety and Environmental Policy & Procedures.

All staff should hold a duty and commitment to observing the University's Equality & Diversity policy and procedures at all times. Duties must be carried out in accordance with relevant Equality & Diversity legislation and University policies/procedures.

Successful completion of probation will be dependent on attendance at the University's mandatory courses which include Respecting Diversity and, where appropriate, Recruitment and Selection.

Organisational Responsibility
Reports to: Professor M Wilson

Person Specification

Your application will be reviewed with respect to meeting the essential and desirable criteria listed below. Your application will be reviewed against the essential and desirable criteria listed below. Applicants are strongly advised to explicitly state and evidence how they meet each of the essential (and desirable) criteria in their application. Stages of assessment are as follows:

1 – Application
2 – Test/Assessment Centre/Presentation
3 – Interview

Essential Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Significant experience of working with people and team work. Signficiant experience of working in community settings with multiple groups Significant experience of running art-based workshops	1,2,3
Skills and abilities	Effective communication skills to exchange effectively with different individuals and groups with water interests, including disparate stakeholders and the general public/communities. Fluency, or near-fluency in Spanish language. Excellent understanding of how to conduct narrative research using appropriate qualitative (or related) research techniques and implementing new research methods. Highly developed skills as a creative practitioner. Ability to effectively analyse and interpret research data to generate outcomes. Ability to work on own initiative and organise workload effectively. Ability to work cooperatively with others both inside and outside the School and to build and participate in internal and external networks in order to enhance individual, project and Loughborough profile. Competence in IT skills and Internet usage, including MS Office. Accuracy and attention to detail, and the ability to write with clarity and precision. Excellent administrative and organisational skills	1,2,3
Training	A willingness to undertake further training as appropriate and to adopt new procedures as and when required.	1,3
Qualifications	First degree in an arts, humanities or social sciences discipline A postgraduate qualification in an arts, humanities or social sciences discipline or equivalent professional experience PhD in an arts, humanities or social sciences discipline	1,3

| Other | To be responsible for your own health and safety and that of your colleagues, in accordance with the University's health and safety policy.

A willingness to travel overseas, sometimes for extended periods. | 1 |

Desirable Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Significant experience of interdisciplinary research involving arts and science

Significant experience of digital storytelling

Significant experience of working in a range of social media

Significant experience of practice-led research.

Significant experience of working with digital media | 1,3 |
| Skills and Abilities | Signidficant experience of leading digital storytelling and/or collaborative media practice workshops

Knowledge of the wider debate relating to biodiversity and environmental policy

An interest in the wider agenda of the research team.

Good knowledge of Colombia and Central/South America

Good skills in photography and video production

Substantial experience with basic editing software

Ability to employ the effective use of social media to further the aims and activities of the projects

Knowledge of ethical protocols and considerations relating to community arts-based practice and research | 1,3 |
| Other | Full UK/EU driving license | 1 |

Conditions of Service

Two positions are available within this campaign. Both positions are **full-time**, but one is **fixed-term** until July 2021, the other is fixed term until December 2021. Salary will be on Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6 (£30,942 to £40,322), at a starting salary to be confirmed on offer of appointment.

The appointment will be subject to the University's normal Terms and Conditions of Employment for Grade 6 and above staff, details of which can be found here.

The University is committed to enabling staff to maintain a healthy work-home balance and has a number of family-friendly policies which are available at http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/family-leave-policy-and-procedure---page.html.

We also offer an on-campus nursery with subsidised places, subsidised places at local holiday clubs and a childcare voucher scheme (further details are available at: http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/childcare-information---page.html

In addition, the University is supportive, wherever possible, of flexible working arrangements.

We also strive to create a culture that supports equality and celebrates diversity throughout the campus. The University holds a Bronze Athena SWAN award which recognises the importance of support for women at all stages of their academic career. For further information on Athena SWAN see http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/athena-swan/