Social Sciences and Humanities
Communication and Media

Loughborough University

Research Associate (Maternity Cover)

Full-time and fixed-term from 15 March 2021 – 18 June 2021 (or until the earlier return of the post holder, whichever is sooner)

REQ200894

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.

Department summary:
Department of Social Sciences, Loughborough University: http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/socialsciences/ http://www.lborolondon.ac.uk/

Job Description

Job Grade: Specialist and Supporting Academic, Grade 6

This is an exciting opportunity for a social researcher with a background in memory studies, cultural sociology, social history and/or media and communications studies to join the five-year project 'Migrant Memory and the Postcolonial Imagination (MMPI): British Asian Memory, Identity and Community after Partition' funded by the Leverhulme Trust, led by Professor Emily Keightley. The research involves working with the South Asian community in Loughborough (and surrounding area) to explore cultural memories of the Empire, the 1947 Partition of India and migration, the ways in which they are communicated across time and space, and the role of these memories in the development of contemporary community identities.

The successful applicant will be a social researcher with experience in qualitative social research methods, and a background in memory studies, cultural sociology, social history, media and communications studies or a cognate discipline. They will need to be comfortable conducting research in multicultural community settings. Experience of conducting research with the South Asian community, and/or participatory action research, and or empirical memory studies research are also desirable, as is particular interest in the social and cultural construction of identity.

The successful applicant will primarily work with Professor Emily Keightley (Department of Social Sciences) and will be linked to the Centre for Research in Communication and Culture at Loughborough University. They will also collaborate closely with Charnwood Arts. The successful candidate will work in a small group based at Loughborough University. They will be assisted in data collection activities by a 0.4FTE research assistant. This team is mirrored by another research team working with the Bangladeshi community in Tower Hamlets based at Loughborough in London.

Job Purpose

To conduct social research with the South Asian community in Loughborough (and surrounding area) in order to explore cultural memories of the 1947 Partition of India, the ways in which they are communicated across time and space, and the role of these memories in the development of contemporary community identities.

Job Duties

Project Specific (management)
- Manage and coordinate specific areas of qualitative research;
- Take responsibility for negotiating and maintaining research contacts and relationships with research partner organisations;

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- Manage qualitative research materials and archiving;
- Contribute to data analysis and presentation of findings;
- Attend and contribute to meetings with project partners and other stakeholder organisations;
- To work in close collaboration with project PhD students and the research assistants based at Loughborough University;
- To liaise with the project team based at Loughborough University London;
- Report to the Principal Investigator;
- Share research progress and issues with the Principal Investigator;
- Attendance and input at regular internal meetings;
- Manage and develop online materials, blogs and social media as appropriate.

Project Specific (research)

- Conduct literature based searches and collect background information on the research area;
- Work with partner organisations to facilitate access to the South Asian community and to collaborate with Charnwood Arts in the development of cultural activities in the area;
- Negotiate and follow up research contacts;
- Design and undertake data collection using qualitative interviewing techniques, participant observation, and programmes of participatory cultural activity;
- Analyse qualitative research data;
- Transcribe interviews and prepare data for archiving;
- Engage with various stages of data analysis;
- To contribute to the design and delivery of project events and associated scholarly activities (e.g. research symposia and working with visiting scholars);
- Manage the dissemination of online materials such as blogs and social media;
- Assist in the development of materials for knowledge transfer and networking;
- Attend and take part in continual professional development events;
- Author / co-author seminar and/or conference papers based on the research;
- Present /co-present at conferences, seminars and related events;

Other Related Activities and Functions

- To engage in training programmes in the University (e.g. through Professional Development) which are consistent with your needs and aspirations and those of the School);
- To undertake such duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

Points To Note

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 the Principal Investigator, Professor Emily Keightley.

Person Specification

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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	Experience of using qualitative social research methods	1,3
	Experience of qualitative data analysis (e.g. transcription, coding and analysis, using NViVo)	1,2,3
	Significant relevant experience of research in one or more of the following areas: memory studies, cultural sociology, social history, media and communications studies or a cognate discipline	1,3
Skills and abilities	Ability to conduct empirical cultural memory studies research	1,3
	Ability to publish in academic journals and present at academic conferences	1,3
	Competence in IT skills and Internet usage	1,3
	Ability to work independently and as part of a team and to collaborate with others	1,3
Training	A willingness to undertake further training as appropriate and to adopt new procedures as and when required	1,3
Qualifications	A PhD in Sociology, History, Media and Communication Studies, South Asian Studies or another social sciences or humanities discipline of relevance to the project (or very close to completion)	1,3
Other	A degree of flexibility and commitment to meet deadlines as appropriate	1,3

Desirable Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Substantial knowledge of at least one of the following fields: memory studies, social or media history, South Asian history	1,3
	Experience of media analysis	1,3
	Experience of one or more of the following: conducting empirical research in community settings; participatory action research; participant observation; qualitative interviewing	1,3
	Experience of working with non-academic partner organisations	1,3
Skills and abilities	Working knowledge of one or more South Asian languages	1,3
	Proven ability to publish in academic journals and present at academic conferences	1,3
	Competence in SPSS & qualitative data analysis software	1,3
Qualifications	DBS clearance	1,3

Conditions of Service

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The position is **full-time** and **fixed-term** from 15 March 2021 until 18 June 2021 (or the earlier return of the post holder, whichever is sooner). Salary will be on Specialist and Supporting Academic, Grade 6 (£30,942 - £40,322 per annum), 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/

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