

Research Associate in Communications History Coloniality and Communications: British Telecommunications in Mesopotamia in the Early 20th Century

Post-doctoral RA (Grade 6), 0.5 FTE for 12 months, commencing 1 October 2024.

Job Ref: REQ240726

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.

Project Description

This project is funded by AHRC Research Development and Engagement Fellowship. The Fellow is Dr Burçe Çelik. The Project began in April 2024 and will end by October 2025; and the RA position will start on October 1st 2024.

The project investigates the role of British communication networks in the colonial territorialisation and deterritorialization of Mesopotamian region between 1900s and 1930s. It has an interdisciplinary approach that brings together media and communication studies, Middle Eastern studies and history. It develops a decolonial/anti-colonial approach that employs historical craft to decentre the hegemonic knowledge systems in media and communication discipline.

It involves archival research such as The National Archives, British Telecom Global Archives, Global Museum of Communications, PK Porthcurno collections as well as British Library, Imperial War Museum archives where the RA will assist archival research, digitisation of some records and analysis of the findings. It also involves public engagement pillars such as production and curation of digital gallery of select records, production and circulation of podcast programs with stakeholders, organisation of a workshop, as well as website and social media messages.

Job Description

Job Grade: Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6

Job Purpose

The RA will assist Dr Çelik with archival research, digitisation of selected records, workshop organisation, social/webpage material and podcast production, and the UKRI reports and academic outcomes.

The RA will participate in the analysis of historical data findings.

The RA will also lead on one of the peer-reviewed articles and a conference presentation.

Job Duties

To become familiar with the research area and fields, including the history of communications from decolonial/anticolonial perspectives, 20th-century Middle Eastern (Mesopotamia or Iraq) history

- To visit archives (some or all of the above-mentioned archives), conduct archival and documentary research and analyse findings on the history of British communications in Mesopotamia between the 1900s and 1930s
- To plan and assist the organisation of the workshop, podcast programs
- To lead the production of webpage and social media content
- To lead the digitisation of select archival records or documents to produce digital gallery and other promotional activities
- Be responsible for conducting the day-to-day running of the project.
- To feed back to the PI (Dr Çelik) to recommend the next steps.
- Write regular progress reports and present outcomes to the PI and Project Partners.
- Travel to attend meetings and make presentations both within the project partners' working group and to external stakeholders.
- To support the PI by enhancing relationships with existing collaborators and by assisting the establishment of relationships with new collaborators.
- To lead at least one research article suitable for publication in high-quality academic journals.
- To attend and contribute to conferences.
- To contribute to project promotion and public engagement events.
- Contribute ideas for new research and enterprise directions.
- Maintain confidentiality and ensure that intellectual property (IPR) agreements are not violated.
- Engage in training programmes at the University (or elsewhere) that are consistent with the project's and the department's needs and aspirations.
- Undertake other duties as may be reasonably requested and 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 Dr Burçe Çelik, Reader in Media and Creative Industries

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	Background in history, or media and communication studies, cultural studies	1
	Experience in academic research on the Middle Eastern history (20 th or 19 th century)	3
	Familiarity with media, communication and/or cultural theories; and theories of modernity, colonialism, and decolonial/anticolonial stance	1
Skills and abilities	Archival research skills	1
	Web and social media management skills	1,3
	Excellent written and oral communication skills	1, 3
	Self-motivated with ability to meet deadlines	1,3
	Excellent interpersonal, and organisational skills	1,3
	Working with historical data	1,3
	Ability to write project reports and make technical presentations to industrial and academic research groups	1, 3
	Knowledge of relevant Health & Safety issues	3
Training	Demonstrate evidence of having undertaken further training	1, 3
Qualifications	PhD (or near completion)	1
Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities policy at all times.	1

Desirable Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Research experience on media/communication history in the Middle East or the Global South	1, 3
	Research experience with decolonial/anticolonial theories in historical context	1, 3
	Working in a high-quality academic research environment	1, 3
	Working in archival institutions	1, 3
	Working in public engagement activities of research	1, 3
Skills and abilities	Authoring original work, in the highest quality refereed academic journals	1, 3
	A strong publication track record	1, 3
	Knowledge of Arabic	1, 3

Qualifications	PhD (or near completion) in history, or Middle Eastern studies, or media and communication	1, 3
Other	Travel / Able to travel Independently / Working patterns	1, 3

Conditions of Service

The position is PART TIME and FIXED TERM. Salary will be on Specialist Support Academic Research Grade 6 - £33,966 - £44,263 per annum (pro-rata) plus London Weighting - £3,518 per annum (pro-rata), at a starting salary to be confirmed on offer of appointment.

The appointment will be subject to the University's Terms and Conditions of Employment for STAFF GRADES 1-5/STAFF GRADES 6 AND ABOVE, 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 can be found [here](#).

The University offers a wide range of employee benefits which can be found [here](#).

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/>