School of Social Sciences and Humanities
Department of English

Research Associate in English
Project Title: *Mind the Generation Gap: Literature, Representation, Consumption*
Job Ref: REQ260849

School/Department summary:

The post is based in the vibrant research environment of the English Department within the School of Social Sciences and Humanities at Loughborough University, which includes relevant centres of expertise, such the Health Humanities Hub and the Centre for Culture and Communication.

Project Description:
The Research Associate (RA) will join a 30-month research project in English Literature and Human Geography, *Mind the Generation Gap: Literature, Representation, Consumption*, funded by the Leverhulme Trust, and be based at Loughborough University. The project is interdisciplinary with four investigators: Professor Siân Adiseshiah (PI, English, Loughborough University); Professor Sarah Holloway (CI, Geography, Loughborough University); Dr Amy Culley (CI, English, University of Lincoln); and Professor Jonathon Shears (CI, English, Keele University) and two Research Associates. The project has two streams 1) the production of a literary history of intergenerational encounters in British and Irish literature from 1800; 2) analysis of public encounters with extracts from that history in three cultural sites (a theatre, three secondary schools, and two readings groups) to ascertain current attitudes to age and generation, and the influence of literature on those attitudes. The RA will work fully on stream 1 and contribute to stream 2. They will work closely with both Principal Investigator, Professor Siân Adiseshiah, and Co-Investigators Dr Amy Culley (University of Lincoln) and Professor Jonathon Shears (Keele University).

Job Description

Job Family and Grade: Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6

Job Purpose

The RA will undertake a literature review, bibliographic, and archival research to assist in the production of a new literary history of intergenerationality, working in close collaboration with Principal Investigator, Professor Siân Adiseshiah, and Co-Investigators Dr Amy Culley and Professor Jonathon Shears. They will be involved in all stages of the project: this includes managing the website, co-organising the one-day symposium, writing for publication, as well as presenting at conferences. They will also help with the co-ordination of the events at cultural sites across the Midlands.

Job Duties

1. **Facilitate project teamwork:**
   - To be responsible for conducting the day-to-day running of the project (with Research Associate 2), including carrying out independent research.
   - To contribute to the organisation of the team and advisory group meetings, and to feedback on progress and make recommendations for next steps.
     To formulate detailed plans for the project based on broad guidance from the project team.

   Undertake project preparation:

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- To undertake bibliographic and archival searches (where appropriate) to produce a literature review for stream 1.
- To take responsibility for preparing high-quality research for peer-reviewed publication.
- To liaise with cultural sites (schools, theatre, readings groups) in the Midlands, UK, and coordinate workshops.

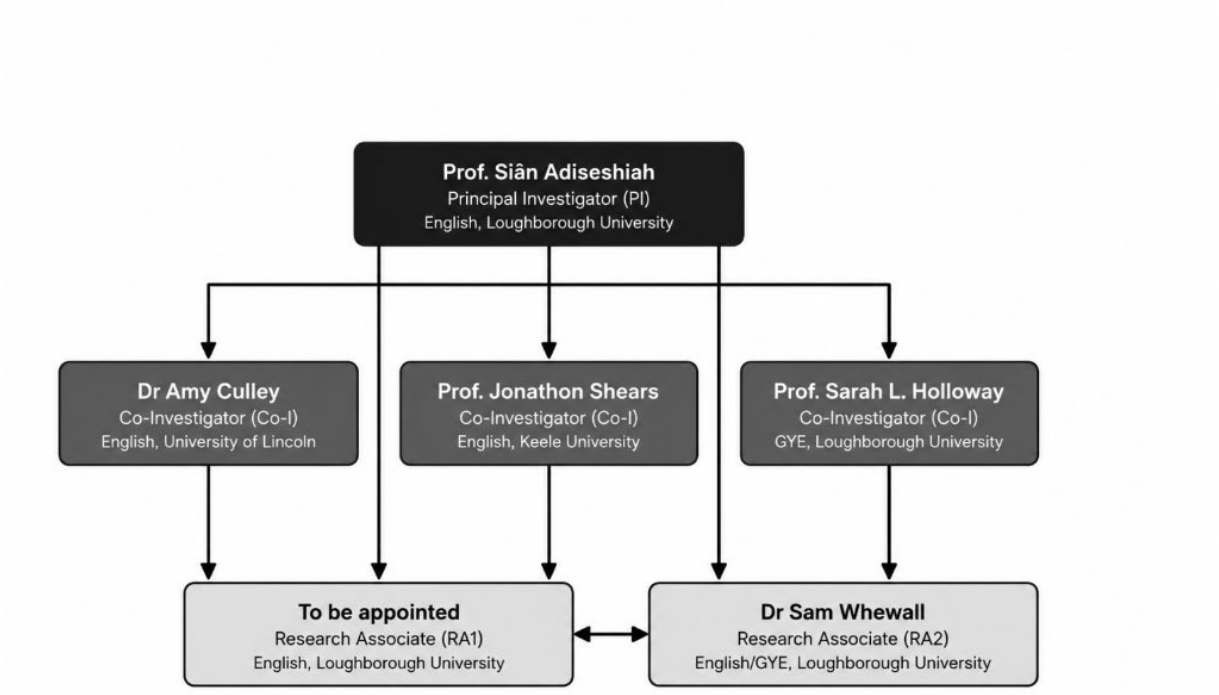
2. **Support project dissemination:**
   - To attend and present at conferences and co-publish research (with PI and other Co-Is as relevant) in edited book and monograph.
   - To manage the project website (including implementation of timely updates) and social media accounts.
   - To contribute to project promotion and public engagement activities.
   - To co-organise the project symposium.
   - To enhance relationships with existing and new collaborators.
3. **Other:**
   - To maintain confidentiality at all times and ensure that intellectual property (IPR) agreements are not violated.
   - To undertake training in the University (or elsewhere) consistent with the needs and aspirations of the project.
   - To undertake other 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 outlined in the document.

Organisational Responsibility

Reports to the: PI, Professor Siân Adiseshiah (Loughborough University) and Co-Is, Dr Amy Culley (University of Lincoln) and Professor Jonathon Shears (Keele University)
Direct Reports: Not applicable
Budget Responsibilities: Not applicable
Structure Chart:



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Person Specification

Your application will be assessed based on the essential and desirable criteria listed below.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to explicitly demonstrate how they meet each essential (and desirable) criteria at the application stage. The criteria that you need to demonstrate in your application will be listed as Stage 1 in the table below.

Stages of assessment are as follows:
1 – Criteria measured at Application
2 – Criteria measured at Test/Assessment Centre/Presentation
3 - Criteria measured at Interview

Essential Criteria:

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Undertaking research in English literature (any period from 1800) with an interest in age or generation studies (or an adjacent field of study e.g. health humanities or disability studies)	1, 3
	Authoring original work for a monograph, academic journals, book chapters, and/or conference papers.	1, 3
Skills and abilities	Excellent written and oral communication skills in English.	1, 3
	Self-motivated with excellent time management skills and ability to complete agreed work commitments on time.	1, 3
	Excellent interpersonal and organisational skills, including ability to work independently and as part of a team and to collaborate with others.	1, 3
	Able to build and maintain effective working relationships with academic colleagues, students, and external partners to support collaborative research and communication of findings.	1, 3
	Able to communicate research activities and findings effectively to a range of audiences through website updates and social media posts.	1, 3
Training	Willingness to undertake further training, such as mandatory training	1, 3
Qualifications	PhD in English literature (or near to completion)	1, 3
Other	Demonstrate an ability to behave in a way that adheres to equitable and inclusive working practices, while respecting diversity of thought and supporting freedom of speech and expression.	1, 3
	Willingness to travel nationally and internationally	1, 3

Desirable Criteria: These are skills, experience and competencies that are additional extras that may be used to narrow the pool down if we receive a high volume of applications all meeting the essential criteria.

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Specific experience of researching prose fiction.	1, 3
	Demonstrable experience of maintaining and updating website content and managing social media accounts, including creating engaging digital content.	1, 3
	Organising research events.	1, 3
Skills and abilities	Basic website management and maintenance skills	1, 3
	Social media skills (particularly for LinkedIn), including copywriting, hook creation, visual design, and basic editing	

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Conditions of Service

The appointment will be subject to the University's Terms and Conditions of Employment relevant to the job grade.

Shared University Responsibilities

As a member of the Loughborough community, you are expected to:

- Take reasonable care of yourself, others and the environment, and to prevent harm by your acts or omissions. All staff are therefore required to adhere to the University's Health, Safety and Environmental Sustainability Policies & Procedures.

- Support and contribute to the University's commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), while carrying out all duties in a way that respects these principles and upholds the right to free expression. Further information about EDI at Loughborough and our strategic aims is available on our website

Our Purpose, Vision, and Values

Our purpose, Vision and Values underpin all that we do and shape how we work together at Loughborough.

We're proud to promote our values: **Adventurous**, **Collaborative**, **Creative**, **Authentic** and **Responsible**. Our people bring these values to life every day, and they are central to the positive and supportive culture that makes Loughborough unique.

If you join us, you'll be encouraged to bring these values to life in your own work and contribute to the positive, supportive culture that makes Loughborough unique.

Read more about our **vision and values**.

Our Accreditations

We 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.

We are proud to be a Race Equality Charter Member. The Charter aims to improve the representation, progression and success of all minority ethnic staff and students within higher education and address issues of racism within higher education institutions (HEIs).

We are proud to be a Disability Confident Employer and have adopted a proactive approach to employing disabled people and to creating a more diverse workforce. We ensure that our recruitment processes are inclusive and accessible. We guarantee to offer an interview to all applicants who have declared themselves with a disability, provided they meet the essential criteria for a role. We proactively anticipate and provide reasonable adjustments and support existing employees who acquire a disability or long-term condition to thrive in the workplace.

We are a real living wage employer, and our Living Wage Employer Mark shows our commitment to paying our staff according to the cost of living.

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We are proud supporters of the City of Sanctuary movement and delighted to be recognised as a University of Sanctuary. This national network brings together, university staff, lecturers, academics and students, who together work to make Higher Education institutions place of safety, solidarity and empowerment for people seeking sanctuary.

Disclosure and Barring Service Check: This post is subject to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (Exceptions Order) 1975 and as such it will be necessary for a submission for a Disclosure to be made to the Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly known as CRB) to check for any previous criminal convictions.

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.

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