RESOURCING/

JOB DESCRIPTION:

Research Associate (2 positions)

Ref Number:	**HSS-064-021**
Salary Scale:	**Grade 7, £34,804 to £39,152 per annum**
Contract:	**For a fixed-term period of 5 years**
School/Department:	**School of Psychology Division of Human and Social Sciences**
Location:	**University of Kent, Canterbury Campus**
Responsible to:	**Professor Karen Douglas or their nominee**
Closing Date for applications:	**29 August 2021**
Interviews are expected to be held on:	**21 September 2021**
Expected start date:	**01 January 2022**

The Role

We are seeking to hire two Post-Doctoral Research Associates with experience conducting survey and experimental research in social and/or political psychology. The posts are funded by a five-year European Research Council Advanced Grant awarded to Professor Karen Douglas, titled “Consequences of conspiracy theories” (CONSPIRACY_FX).

The successful candidates will work with Professor Douglas in the School of Psychology, University of Kent, UK, alongside another Research Associate, a Project Officer, Postgraduate Students, other Academic Staff, Research Assistants, and an International Advisory Board.

Key responsibilities include survey and experimental design, study pre-registration, ethics applications, data collection, data analysis, data management, and dissemination of findings in the form of conference presentations and publications in academic journals. The post holders will also assist with other aspects of the project (e.g., co-ordinating the work of Research Assistants, co-supervision of Postgraduate Students, organising a seminar series, organising stakeholder events, organising a conference, public outreach). It is expected that the successful applicants will be highly familiar with major theories and research in social and political psychology and will have extensive experience with quantitative research methods. Some

experience using multilevel and longitudinal modelling, and analysing archival and qualitative data, is desirable.

The project involves three work packages examining the consequences of conspiracy theories in the domains of politics, health and the environment. A fourth work package examines the consequences of conspiracy theories for the people who adopt and share them. Each work package involves a set of archival, survey, and experimental studies. The two Research Associates will be primarily responsible for one of work packages 1 or 4 but will work with Professor Douglas and the Postgraduate Students across all four work packages. The overall aim of the project is to systematically examine the consequences of adopting and sharing conspiracy theories, to determine when and how they are important, and why they are influential.

Key Duties

- Develop, conduct, and coordinate the research as indicated in the grant proposal, and contribute to other research in line with the project's aims
- Write up research for publication and disseminate the project's findings at relevant national and international conferences
- Assist with supervision of Postgraduate Students and Research Assistants
- Assist with external stakeholder engagement and public outreach
- Manage own research and administrative activities, with guidance if required
- Actively contribute to the research culture in the School of Psychology
- Continually update knowledge and understanding in field of specialism
- Such other duties, commensurate with the grading of the post that may be assigned by Professor Douglas or their nominee

Health, Safety & Wellbeing Considerations

This role involves undertaking duties which include the health, safety, and wellbeing issues outlined below. Please be aware of these, when considering your suitability for the role.

- Regular use of Screen Display Equipment

Internal & External Relationships

Internal: The post holder will report to Professor Douglas and work directly with her, the other Research Associate, the Project Officer, Postgraduate Students, Research Assistants, and International Advisory Board on a day-to-day basis. The post holder will be part of the vibrant social and political psychology research groups at the University of Kent (for more information see: https://research.kent.ac.uk/social-psychology/ and https://research.kent.ac.uk/political-psychology/).

External: The post holders will engage with potential stakeholders (e.g., government agencies, advisory groups) throughout the project. They will also be active in disseminating the project research to the public via the media and project website.

Person Specification

The Person Specification details the necessary skills, qualifications, experience, or other attributes needed to carry out the job. Please be aware that your application will be measured against the criteria published below. Applications will be deemed unsuccessful if an essential criterion is not met. This may also help you self-select if you are suitable for the role.

Selection panels will be looking for clear evidence and examples in your application which back up any assertions you make in relation to each criterion.

Qualifications / Training	Essential	Desirable	Assess via*
A doctorate or equivalent qualification in social or political psychology (or submitted prior to the project start date)	✓		A

Experience / Knowledge	Essential	Desirable	Assess via*
An excellent record of publications in quality peer reviewed journals, commensurate with stage of career	✓		A
Experience designing surveys and experiments	✓		A/I
Experience using statistical packages (knowledge of R is desirable)	✓		A/I
Familiarity with theories and research in social and political psychology	✓		A/I
Demonstrated ability to work as an independent researcher and be self-motivated	✓		A/I
Experience managing large and complex datasets	✓		A/I
Experience conducting advanced statistical analyses, including longitudinal and multilevel modelling		✓	A/I
Experience analysing archival data		✓	A/I
Experience analysing qualitative data		✓	A/I

Skills / Abilities	Essential	Desirable	Assess via*
Ability to conduct independent research by formulating research questions, designing studies and testing hypotheses	✓		A/I/T
Excellent written and verbal communication skills	✓		A/I/T
Excellent project management skills	✓		A/I
Excellent interpersonal, organisational, and problem-solving skills	✓		I
Excellent oral and visual presentation skills	✓		I
High degree of initiative, independence, and self-motivation	✓		I

Additional Attributes	Essential	Desirable	Assess via*
Interest and willingness to train, supervise, and mentor Students and Research Assistants	✓		I
Continued interest to develop professional profile, knowledge, and skills	✓		I
Ability to collaborate with colleagues within and beyond the School of Psychology	✓		I

***Criterion to be assessed via:**
A = application form or CV/cover letter
I = interview questions
T = test or presentation at interview