

## RESOURCING/

## JOB DESCRIPTION:

### Postdoctoral Research Associate



Ref Number:	SS-002-19
Salary Scale:	Grade 7: £34,189 per annum
Contract:	For a fixed term period of 24 Months and Full-time
School/Department:	Kent Law School
Location:	University of Kent, Canterbury
Responsible to:	Professor Emilie Cloatre
Closing Date for applications:	18 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
Interviews are expected to be held on:	7 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
Expected start date:	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2019

#### The Role

We are seeking a dynamic researcher interested in working as part of an interdisciplinary research team on a project funded by the Wellcome Trust (Investigator Award), entitled ***“Law, knowledges and the making of ‘modern healthcare’: regulating traditional and alternative medicines in contemporary contexts”***.

#### Background to the Project

The project aims to engage with the complex issue of how law can apprehend traditional and alternative medicines, focusing on the context of Europe and Africa. It explores both the historical context of current regulatory frameworks in selected cases studies, and their impact on contemporary medical practices, and draw on insights from a variety of disciplines (including socio-legal studies; Science and Technology Studies; medical and legal anthropology; and history of law and medicine) to explore the ways in which law participates in producing the boundaries of ‘legitimate medicine’.

Traditional and alternative medicines constitute a significant, if contested, element of everyday healthcare. As such, increasing attention has been paid to the challenges and opportunities they also pose to public health systems. The mobilization of traditional healers by health officials during the recent Ebola crisis illustrated the importance of engaging such systems when pursuing public health objectives. In Europe, as patients turn increasingly to traditional and alternative medicines, the question of their potential contribution to well-being is also

acutely posed, notably in relation to long-term illnesses, including cancer. However, such medicines remain disputed: questions persist over the safety and efficacy of practices that cannot, by their nature, be subject to the usual tests of biomedicine. Traditional healers are often perceived as ill-adapted to 'modern' healthcare, and states may be reluctant to recognise them as public health agents; indeed, their ultimate enrolment in the Ebola crisis was preceded by intense wariness. Alternative practices, similarly, have attracted scepticism, from some health professionals, policy-makers, and publics. This ambivalence has led policy-makers worldwide to seek better ways to integrate traditional and alternative medicine into public health strategies. Amongst the critical issues raised, is the matter of regulation: how can regulatory regimes best be organized to facilitate the safe integration of traditional and alternative medicines into public health policies?

The stakes of such regulation are high in practice, but also raise significant conceptual and political issues: regulating this field effectively draws the boundaries between legitimate and illegitimate medical knowledge, an exercise loaded with socio-cultural and historical, including postcolonial, significance. This project aims to engage with both aspects of the debates: their policy implications, but also their socio-political and conceptual significance.

The project focuses strategically on six case studies in Europe and Africa, organized in three sub-regional strands, that illustrate most vividly key policy-debates while giving significant scope for addressing broader conceptual questions: France and England; Ghana and Senegal; Mauritius and La Reunion. The case studies have been designed to pay particular attention to the postcolonial dimensions of the project.

In terms of its approach, the project is a multi-sited, qualitative socio-legal investigation, and will involve extensive fieldwork in each of the case studies. It also draws on extensive library-based research from relevant disciplines across the social sciences and humanities.

The project represents a significant intervention in an underexplored area, and has significant scope for scholarly intervention and policy contribution. It provides significant scope for career development for each of the researchers. The post-holder will work with Dr Emilie Cloatre (Principal Investigator, Kent Law School), Dr Nayeli Urquiza-Haas (Research Associate) and benefit from the lively research environment of Kent Law School (one of the leading interdisciplinary and critical law schools in the UK), and from its research centres.

The postholder will work for 2 years, and across the UK and Ghana case studies.

### **Key Accountabilities / Primary Responsibilities**

- Responsible (alongside and under the direction of the PI) for library- and archival based research, including legal research (case-law and primary legislation)
- Responsible for collaboratively carrying-out fieldwork and data-analysis for UK and Ghana case study (under the direction of the PI, and alongside the other Research Associate).
- Co-organizing one project workshop.
- Assist in the planning of public engagement events.
- Sharing findings of all archival and library-based research with other team members, including via Dropbox.
- Publish academic articles both as sole and co-author based on project findings.
- Shared responsibility for dissemination of research to academic and non-academic research users.
- Shared oversight of project website.

## Key Duties

- Archival and library based research.
- Qualitative interviews.
- Identification and synthesis of interdisciplinary academic literature relevant to the project questions.
- Analysis of several forms of data (including interview data, archival material and secondary literature) to answer the project's key research questions.
- Contribution to the intellectual development of the project.
- Assistance in preparation and editing of project documentation (such as project reports and materials for the advisory board).
- Production of publishable research relevant to the project objectives (see above).
- Assistance with the organisation of a project workshop (as above).
- Contribute to public engagement events.
- Presentation of papers and dissemination of research at academic conferences.
- Work as an integral member of the project team, in regular liaison and consultation with other team members, including participation in regular team meetings.
- Work in co-operation with the Kent Law School Research Support Team in support of the project.
- Attend and contribute to meetings with the project's advisory board.
- Liaise with project partners as required.
- Such other duties, commensurate with the grading of the post that may be assigned by Emilie Cloatre or her 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:** Dr Emilie Cloatre (Principal Investigator); other members of academic and administrative staff at Kent.

**External:** The project advisory board; host institutions in African case studies.

## 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.

Selection panels will be looking for clear evidence and examples in your application, or in your cover letter where applicable, which back-up any assertions you make in relation to each criterion.

Qualifications / Training	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
Ph.D. in Law, Science and Technology Studies, Medical Anthropology, or a cognate field, (completed,	✓		A

or to be completed before post start date) or equivalent experience.			
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Experience / Knowledge	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
Interest in and knowledge of literature in a relevant field of study	✓		A, I
Interest in and/or knowledge of socio-legal theories and methods	✓		A, I
Interest/experience in qualitative or ethnographic research	✓		A, I
Experience of and/or training in archival research methods		✓	A, I
Proven track record of research and writing to the standard required for publishing in leading international journals.	✓		A
Experience of working as part of a research team		✓	A, I
Experience of, and enthusiasm for, communication of research findings via mass media.		✓	A, I
Interest/experience in research in a non-UK cultural context		✓	A, I
Experience in organising and sharing research data so as to make it available to other members of the research team		✓	A, I

Skills / Abilities	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
Excellent research skills (including in legal and/or socio-legal research)	✓		A, I
Ability to work both independently and with direction.	✓		I
Excellent time-management skills	✓		I
Website development and administration skills.		✓	A, I
Excellent IT skills, particularly Microsoft Office packages.	✓		A, I
Excellent oral presentation skills, with the ability to communicate complex specialist material to a variety of audiences.		✓	I

Good organisational skills.	✓		I
French language skills (ability to communicate to professional standards)		✓	A, I

Additional Attributes	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
Commitment to achieving results of the highest quality.	✓		I
Self-motivation and the ability to work independently for prolonged periods of fieldwork.	✓		I
Enthusiasm for interdisciplinary and cross disciplinary work.	✓		I
Willingness to undertake any necessary training.	✓		I

**\*Criterion to be assessed via:**

**A = application form or CV/cover letter**

**I = interview questions**

**T = test or presentation at interview**