

## Job Description

### Research Associate in Political Psychology

<b>Salary:</b>	Grade 7
<b>Contract:</b>	Full time, fixed term
<b>School/Department:</b>	School of Psychology
<b>Location:</b>	Canterbury/Medway Campus
<b>Responsible to:</b>	Nikhil Sengupta (Principle grant holder)

#### Job purpose

The successful candidate will work with Dr Sengupta and will be responsible for data management, data analysis, dissemination of findings in the form of press releases, conference presentations and peer-reviewed publications. They will also assist with some of the organisational aspects of the project (e.g., co-ordinating the work of research assistants).

The project involves two largescale data collection initiatives – a four-wave longitudinal survey of 50,000 adults and an eight-wave longitudinal survey of 20,000 adolescents. The adult survey will also involve the use of a custom app that will enable the sample to serve Each survey will be fairly extensive, allowing for the inclusion of a very wide range of constructs relevant to the project’s objectives. The “political attitudes” referred to in this project centre around policy preferences in the domains of inequality immigration and international relations, but are not confined solely to these domains, nor restricted solely to policy preferences (e.g., broader attitudes such as partisanship, xenophobia, ideology, values etc. will also be examined). By the time the current post begins, Wave 1 data from both surveys will be available and the successful candidate will have the opportunity to leverage these data to further the project aims and their own research plans.

#### Key accountabilities

- Research: complete and disseminate studies in line with project aims
- Actively contribute to the research culture of the School of Psychology

#### Key duties

The following are the main duties for the job. Other duties, commensurate with the grading of the job, may also be assigned from time to time.

- Develop, conduct and coordinate the research as indicated in the grant proposal
- Help manage the project’s largescale datasets
- Write up research for publication and disseminate the project’s findings at relevant national and international conferences

- Regularly provide updates on project work to the PI and project members
- Manage own research and administrative activities, with guidance if required
- Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism
- Such other duties, commensurate with the grading of the post that may be assigned by Dr Nikhil Sengupta or their nominee

## Internal & external relationships

**Internal:** The post holder will report to Dr Sengupta and work directly with him, the Project Officer, as well as several graduate students and research assistants on a day-to-day basis. The post holder will be part of a vibrant social and political psychology research groups at the University of Kent (for more information see: <https://research.kent.ac.uk/political-psychology/> and <https://research.kent.ac.uk/social-psychology/>)

**External:** The post holder will be in regular communication external stakeholders of the project (e.g., schools, local councils, survey participants)

## Health, safety & wellbeing considerations

This job involves undertaking duties which include the following health, safety and wellbeing considerations:

- Regular use of Screen Display Equipment

## Person specification

The person specification details the necessary skills, qualifications, experience or other attributes needed to carry out the job. Applications will be measured against the criteria published below.

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

### Essential Criteria:

- A doctorate or equivalent qualification in psychology – preferable with a focus in political psychology – or a related discipline (or submitted thesis prior to the interview date) (A)
- An excellent record of publications in quality peer reviewed journals, commensurate with stage of career (A)
- Experience conducting advanced statistical analysis and visualising complex data (A/I)
- Experience managing large/complex datasets (A/I)
- Demonstration of ability to work as an independent researcher and be self-motivated (A)
- Familiarity with research literatures on the antecedents and consequences of political attitudes and behaviour (from a political science, psychology, or related perspective) (A)
- Excellent interpersonal, organizational, and problem-solving skills (I)
- Effective written and verbal communication skills (A/I)
- Excellent oral and visual presentation skills (I)
- High degree of initiative, independence, and self-motivation (I)
- Excellent project management skills (I)

- Interest in and willingness to learn more about ongoing advances in longitudinal survey methodology (I)
- Continued interest to develop professional profile, knowledge, and skills (I)
- Firm commitment to achieving the University's vision and values, with a passion for a transformative student experience and multidisciplinary, impactful research (I)
- Commitment to deliver and promote equality, diversity and inclusivity in the day to day work of the role (I)

**Desirable Criteria:**

- Experience conducting research that leverages multiple methods (e.g., surveys + experiments) to produce more robust empirical findings (I)
- Interest and willingness to train, supervise, and mentor students and research assistants (I)

*Assessment stage: A - Application; I - Interview; T - Test/presentation at interview stage*