Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Department of Politics

Closing date: 6 July 2018

Interview date: To be confirmed

Vacancy reference: 6685
INTRODUCTION

The Department of Politics at the University of York is delighted to offer one 3-year Postdoctoral Fellowship, generously funded by the Leverhulme Trust as part of its Research Leadership Award (2016) to Professor Timothy Stanton for his project Rethinking Civil Society: History, Theory, Critique. It demonstrates how and why these ideas have come to focus more and more on a postulated tension between the autonomous individual, moved to pursue his economic and social interests (and usually it is his interests), and the state. The vehicles of this pursuit are voluntary associations, sitting between the family and the state. But this understanding of civil society fails to do justice to the many alternative forms that social integration, civility, and solidarity may assume in non-European societies. The dominant model of civil society generalises a developmental path of a small number of Western European civil societies, perhaps even one social stratum and one sex in these civil societies, as a universal idea. The successful applicant will join a team of eight doctoral and postdoctoral researchers working on this five-year project. The Fellowship is available to outstanding candidates seeking to conduct research on changing ideas of civil society in post-partition India.
Main purpose of the role

- To conduct research under the supervision of senior colleagues and to contribute to the production of research on the meaning and history of civil society in post-partition India (1947-present). Disciplinary interests may include, but are not restricted to, the history of political thought, intellectual history, social history and the history of philosophy.

- To contribute to a collaborative research project on civil society.

Key responsibilities

(Role holders will be required to undertake some or all of the duties below)

- To conduct individual and collaborative research projects, duties to include: analysis and interpretation of research data; use of appropriate research techniques and methods; writing up of research results and dissemination through publications, seminar and conference presentations and public engagement and outreach activities

- To undertake appropriate organisational and administrative activities connected to the research project

- To engage in collaborative working internally and externally, duties to include: the building of internal contacts and participation in internal networks; collaboration with colleagues on joint projects as required; participation in and identification of external networks in order to share information and identify potential opportunities for collaboration and possible sources of funding; attendance at and contribution to relevant meetings

- To provide guidance to other staff and students, as required, as well as coordinating the work of small research teams

- Where appropriate, to assist with undergraduate teaching in own area of expertise.

JOB DESCRIPTION

At a glance

Salary  
Grade 6; £31,604 - £32,548 a year

Hours of work  
Full time; 37 hours per week

Contract type  
Fixed term; 3 years

Based at  
Heslington, Campus West
# PERSON SPECIFICATION

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<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>First degree in Politics, History, Philosophy or related discipline</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>PhD in Intellectual History, History of Political Thought or related area.</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<th>Knowledge</th>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge in intellectual history/history of political thought to engage in high quality research</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Knowledge of a range of research techniques and methodologies</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Research expertise in an area that will complement and enhance the department's research strategy and goals</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<th>Skills, abilities and competencies</th>
<th>Essential</th>
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<td>Interest in interdisciplinary approaches drawing on insights from across the humanities</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Highly developed communication skills to engage effectively with a wide ranging audience, both orally and in writing, using a range of media</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to write up research work for publication in high profile journals and engage in public dissemination</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to develop research objectives, projects and proposals for own and joint research, with the assistance of a mentor if required</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Competency to conduct individual and collaborative research projects</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to identify sources of funding and contribute to the process of securing funds, with collaborators if required</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Competency to make presentations at conferences or exhibit work in other appropriate events</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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## PERSON SPECIFICATION

### Experience

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<tr>
<td>Experience of carrying out both independent and collaborative research</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Experience of writing up research work for publication</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to work as part of a team and also to work independently using own initiative</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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### Personal attributes

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<th>Essential/Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attention to detail and commitment to high quality</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collaborative ethos</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest in and enthusiasm for the subject matter of the project(s)</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Positive attitude to colleagues and students</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Willingness to work proactively with colleagues in other work areas/institutions</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Ability to plan and prioritise own work in order to meet deadlines, including using initiative to plan research programmes</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Politics is one of the leading centres for research and teaching in Politics and International Studies in the United Kingdom. It was recently ranked eighth in the country for its research performance in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework. The Department also achieves a high level of external recognition for its teaching, and is currently in the top ten of both the Guardian and Times/Sunday Times league tables.

The Department is characterised by a strongly international character, intellectual pluralism, and a commitment both to innovative research and to the application of this knowledge to significant political problems. The Department has undergone a period of significant growth over the past five years, and now consists of 37 academic and teaching staff and 10 support staff. This growth is set to continue, and these posts will contribute to the development of one of our key areas of research and teaching.

Research

The Politics Department at York places research at the centre of its activities. The Department was ranked eighth nationally in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, and is strongly committed to improving this position. Staff are currently organised into four research clusters in the Department, with overlapping membership: Comparative Politics and Public Policy, International Politics, Political Economy and Political Theory. For further information on our research, including cluster activities and a range of current externally funded research projects please see our web pages: http://www.york.ac.uk/politics/research/

Both individual and collaborative research in the Department is generously supported. In addition to an individual research allowance, staff enjoy a research leave scheme with eligibility for two terms’ leave after nine terms’ service. There are also department and University funds to support a range of collaborative and individual research activities. There is a strong departmental commitment to supporting innovative and high quality research, and research support in the Department includes an extensive research mentoring and peer review scheme, as well as the Departmental seminar programme, workshop programmes supported by the Department’s research clusters, lectures and conferences, and a range of other activities. Much of the Department’s research is externally funded, with awards from a wide range of sources including the ESRC, the British Academy, British Council, DFID, the Nuffield Foundation, the EU, the Leverhulme Trust, United States Institute of Peace, UNDP, and the World Bank.

Staff also play an active role in a range of interdisciplinary centres and units across the University, including the Centre for Applied Human Rights, the Centre for Urban Research, the Post-War Reconstruction and Development Unit, the Centre for Women’s Studies, the Centre for Ecology, Law and Politics,
THE DEPARTMENT

THE DEPARTMENT

the Centre for Renaissance and Early Modern Studies, the Centre for Modern Studies, and the York Environmental Sustainability Institute. Staff also collaborate with colleagues at the Universities of Leeds and Sheffield through the White Rose consortium.

Teaching and Learning

Although we are a research-intensive Department we take our teaching very seriously. Our aim is to maintain a collegiate atmosphere where academic practice encompasses equitably distributed research, teaching and administrative duties throughout the staff group.

We currently offer two undergraduate BA (Hons) degrees within the Department:

- Politics
- Politics with International Relations

In addition we offer two joint degrees:

- Politics and English
- Politics and History

We also participate in two interdisciplinary undergraduate degree programmes:

Philosophy, Economics and Politics
Social and Political Sciences

The Department has a large graduate school, with currently 120 MA students and 35 PhD students. There are ten postgraduate taught programmes in the Department:

MA Political Research
MA Conflict, Governance and Development
MA in Contemporary History and International Politics
MA International Political Economy
MA International Relations
MA Political Theory
MA Political and Legal Theory: Toleration
MA Public Administration and Public Policy
Master of Public Administration
Master of Public Administration and International Development

In addition, the Department participates in an interdisciplinary programme, MA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics.

We host a vibrant PhD community, with students from across the discipline. The Politics Department at York is a member of the White Rose Economic and Social Research Council Doctoral Training Centre. With 48 studentships, this is the second largest DTC. The Politics Department participates in pathways in Politics and International Relations, International Development, Security, Conflict and Justice, among others. The
Department is also a member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council White Rose College of the Humanities.

For more details about the Department, our research and our teaching, please visit our website: http://www.york.ac.uk/politics/
Founded on principles of excellence, equality and opportunity for all, the University of York opened in 1963 with just 230 students. In 2018 it is the home of more than 17,000 students across more than 30 academic departments and research centres. Since opening over fifty years ago, we have become one of the world’s leading universities and a member of the prestigious Russell Group.

We are consistently recognised as one of the leading Higher Education Institutes and are ranked 16th in the Times & Sunday Times league table (2017). The University of York has won six Times Higher Education (THE) Awards and five Queen’s Anniversary Prizes.

The University is proud of its association with Athena SWAN, holding 12 awards in support of gender equality, representation and success for all, with gold awards for Chemistry and Biology and a University-wide bronze award.

Of 154 universities that took part in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) in 2014, The University of York ranked 14th overall and 10th for the impact of our research. The University is consistently in the top ten UK research universities and attracts over £60m a year of funding from research alone.

Our vision is to make the University of York a world leader in the creation of knowledge through fundamental and applied research, the sharing of knowledge by teaching students from varied backgrounds and the application of knowledge for the health, prosperity and well-being of people and society.
Attractive workplace

Centred around the picturesque village of Heslington on the edge of the city of York, our colleges are set in an attractive landscaped campus. York enjoys a safe, friendly atmosphere with facilities including bars, shops, theatres and concert halls all within easy walking distance.

The University has undergone an unprecedented period of expansion and renewal since 2000. We have invested in twenty new buildings on the original campus and have completed the first and second phases of a £750m campus expansion. Our investment in new colleges, teaching and learning spaces, laboratories, research facilities and a new sports village mean there has never been a better time to join us.

During this period of change we’ve worked hard to retain our friendly, informal and collegiate atmosphere, which is important to our core values of inclusivity and interdisciplinarity.

We have a thriving international community and are committed to providing staff moving to York with as much support as possible through our Relocation Package and Welcome Officers.

The University is committed to promoting a diverse and inclusive community - a place where we can all be ourselves and succeed on merit. We offer a range of family friendly, inclusive employment policies, flexible working arrangements, staff engagement forums, campus facilities and services to support staff from different backgrounds.

For further information please visit our employee benefit pages.
THE CITY AND THE REGION

The City of York

Internationally acclaimed for its rich heritage and historic architecture, York’s bustling streets are filled with visitors from all over the world. Within its medieval walls you will find the iconic gothic Minster, Clifford’s Tower and the Shambles - just a few of the many attractions.

But York isn’t just a great place to visit - it’s also a great place to live and work. While nourishing a vibrant cosmopolitan atmosphere, York still maintains the friendly sense of community unique to a small city.

Visit [www.visityork.org](http://www.visityork.org) for more information on the city of York

Shopping, culture and entertainment

York boasts specialist and unique boutiques but also all the high street stores on its busy shopping streets. Alongside them you will find cinemas, theatres, an opera house, art galleries, a vast range of restaurants, live music venues and clubs. York is particularly renowned for its multitude of pubs and bars, from the modern to the medieval.

Housing and schools

Whether you choose to live close to the city, in one of the surrounding villages or further afield, you will find a wide range of housing within comfortable distance of York and the University. For families, the area has a range of excellent schools both in the state and independent sector.

Great location

York is one of Britain’s best-connected cities. Halfway between London and Edinburgh on the East Coast mainline, on intercity trains you can reach London King’s Cross in less than two hours and Edinburgh in two and a half hours. York is also well served by road links, and it is easily accessible from the A1, M1 and the M62.

For those travelling from overseas, Manchester Airport is two hours away and Heathrow Airport just three and a half. Flights from nearby Leeds Bradford Airport provide easy access to mainland Europe. By Eurostar from London St Pancras, Paris is just over six hours away.

Yorkshire

The Lonely Planet guide recently declared Yorkshire the third best region in the world to visit. There is something to cater to every taste, whether it be the rugged landscapes of the Moors or the Dales, the picturesque seaside towns of Scarborough and Robin Hoods Bay, the gothic architecture of Whitby or the vibrancy of cosmopolitan Leeds.
Apply online

- Go to https://jobs.york.ac.uk
- Find this job using reference 6685
- Complete the online application form

You will need to submit your completed application by midnight (local UK time) on 6 July 2018

What will I need?

You will need to upload:

- your CV
- a letter describing how you meet the requirements of the job

You will also need details of 2 referees.

Help and assistance

Direct any informal queries to Tim Stanton (tim.stanton@york.ac.uk), or administrator, Julia Key (julia.key@york.ac.uk).

If you have any questions about your application, contact the HR Services team:

recruitment@york.ac.uk
+44 (0)1904 324835