Research Associate
Department of Health Sciences

Closing date: 26 August 2019
Interview date: To be confirmed
Vacancy reference: 7876
INTRODUCTION

The Leverhulme Centre for Anthropocene Biodiversity is a major new research centre funded by the Leverhulme Trust to increase knowledge of how the relationship between humanity and the natural world is changing, and how we might move forwards to maintain and develop a sustainable Earth. [https://www.york.ac.uk/anthropocene-biodiversity/](https://www.york.ac.uk/anthropocene-biodiversity/)

We are recruiting a dynamic cohort of post-doctoral researchers to conduct innovative transdisciplinary research in areas relevant to the Centre’s strategic research goals. This particular Research Fellow position is available full-time for 3 years to coordinate a systematic programme of research on the impact of socioeconomic inequality on the environment, supervised by Associate Director, [Kate Pickett](https://www.york.ac.uk/), Professor of Epidemiology in the Department of Health Sciences, and Professors [Robert Costanza](https://www.york.ac.uk/) and [Ida Kubiszewski](https://www.york.ac.uk/), ecological economists based at Australian National University.

The post is an exciting opportunity to work with researchers across the University of York's Faculties of Sciences, Social Sciences and Arts & Humanities, and with collaborators at the University of Sherbrooke (Canada), the Australian National University and the University of St Andrews.
Main purpose of the role

This post will investigate the relationship between socioeconomic inequality and the environment, including impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem health, the economic behaviour of households, environmental policies, the interests and demands of different social groups, and political decision-making.

The role is to conduct research under the supervision of senior colleagues and to contribute to the production of research. The post-doctoral researcher will assist in the identification and development of potential areas of research and the development of proposals for independent or collaborative research projects with internal and external stakeholders. The Centre has a strong transdisciplinary focus and all post-doctoral researchers will be active members of Transdisciplinary Research Innovation Groups (TRIGs) which will drive the development of flexible networks of expertise and interactions to provide detailed consideration of research projects, rigorous excellence within disciplines and novel integration across disciplines.

The post-holder will devote approximately 60% of their time to the project they coordinate (lead role) and 40% to input their subject specific skills into other Centre projects (collaborative role).

The position will be based in the Leverhulme Centre for Anthropocene Biodiversity 3-4 days per week, flexibly, and in the Department of Health Sciences, both on the Heslington West campus of the University of York. There is potential for research visit(s) to Australian National University.

Key responsibilities

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

- Working under the supervision and mentorship of Professors Kate Pickett, Robert Costanza and Ida Kubiszewski and under the management of the LCAB Centre Manager to support the LCAB, including: statistical analysis of hypotheses regarding the relationship between socioeconomic inequality and the environment, including biodiversity; assisting with data acquisition and data management; conducting literature searches and synthesising research evidence as needed; developing towards research independence

- To conduct the research project's independent aspects as an individual but also coordinate research within teams for collaborative projects. Duties to include: preparation, management, 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 and stakeholder engagement and outreach activities; contributing to the identification of possible new areas of research and the preparation of consequent proposals/applications to external bodies

- To undertake appropriate organisational and administrative activities connected to the research project, for example: reports of research progress; conference organisation; development of promotional or educational material for use on the Centre's website and/or other media

- To develop and initiate 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 national and international meetings

- To provide guidance and support to other staff, students and visiting researchers, as required, as well as coordinating the work of small research teams. In this context, excellent communication skills and a
JOB DESCRIPTION

- willingness to frequently discuss results informally and formally with colleagues in the Centre to ensure cohesion and optimal progress are essential
- To engage with collective activities of the Centre, including internal weekly/monthly/annual meetings, discussion series and quarterly workshops
## PERSON SPECIFICATION

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<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First degree in a relevant discipline with quantitative skills training</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>PhD in a relevant subject area or equivalent experience</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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## Knowledge

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<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge of socioeconomic inequality and environmental change sufficient to engage in high quality research</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Knowledge of a range of research techniques and methodologies relevant to the field of study</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Research expertise in an area that will complement and enhance the Centre’s research strategy and goals</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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## Skills, abilities and competencies

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<th>Skills, abilities and competencies</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced statistical skills, including econometrics</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>
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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</td>
<td>Essential</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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<td>Ability to facilitate discussions with groups of mixed experience and expertise</td>
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### PERSON SPECIFICATION

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<th>Experience</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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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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<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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<td>Experience of working across disciplines</td>
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<th>Personal attributes</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>Essential</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>Ability to plan and prioritise own work in order to meet deadlines</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Willingness to work proactively with colleagues in other work areas/institutions</td>
<td>Essential</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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<td>Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Commitment to social and environmental justice</td>
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The Leverhulme Centre for Anthropocene Biodiversity

The Leverhulme Centre for Anthropocene Biodiversity represents a collaboration between a dozen University of York Departments, across the Faculties of Sciences, Social Sciences and Arts & Humanities, and with researchers at the University of Sherbrooke (Canada), the Australian National University and the University of St Andrews. The Centre will run for 10 years from Sept 2019 and is directed by Professor Chris Thomas, with Associate Directors Dr Mark Jenner and Professor Kate Pickett.

Human-caused changes to the world’s physical and biological processes are so great that we increasingly think of the Earth as having entered a new geological epoch, the ‘Anthropocene’. This disruption has already resulted in the extermination of many species and could eventually lead to the “Big Sixth” mass extinction event of our planet’s history. However, the Anthropocene is also a time of biological gains. Transformation of our planet is enabling many species to thrive in parts of the world that they would not otherwise have reached. The rate of evolution has increased to such an extent that the human epoch may eventually be seen as one of the greatest boosts to biological diversity in the history of life on Earth. These gains are often ignored and disliked, and are more typically seen as evidence that the Earth system has moved away from a more desirable state of nature, located somewhere in the historical past.

The Leverhulme Centre for Anthropocene Biodiversity will redress this imbalance, recognising biological gains as well as losses, and changes that are beneficial to humans as well as ones that are harmful. It will bring together world-leading researchers to understand the neglected societal and biological processes that underpin biodiversity gains, and the consequences of those gains, and thus inform and influence society’s response to these changes.
THE DEPARTMENT

The Research Fellow will spend most of their time working within LCAB’s centrally located physical space in association and collaboration with the Centre’s students, researchers, collaborators and directors. As this appointment will also be based in the Department of Health Sciences, the Research Fellow will spend approximately 1 day per week (flexible) in the department, as a member of the Public Health and Society Research Group led by Professor Pickett.

The Department of Health Sciences has a strong culture of delivering research impact and in conducting research that makes a difference. A key object of our research is to ensure our work has high visibility and impact with national and international audiences. This includes producing evidence which enables practitioners and policy makers to develop more effective interventions and gain insight into how social and economic context mediates the experience of health and the provision of health care. We are also concerned to develop more speculative and theoretically-informed work critically evaluating the underlying assumptions of policy and practice. To achieve these impacts, we work closely with practitioners, policymakers and other researchers to share knowledge and disseminate our findings. We are equally committed to public and civil engagement and in sustaining our partnerships with third sector organisations and non-Government organisations.

In 2017/2018 the Department’s research related income was over £8.1 million, with over 120 staff actively involved in research. In the most recent assessment of research quality in the UK (the 2014 Research Excellence Framework), the Department, along with its partners, the Centre for Health Economics, the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination and the Hull York Medical School, was ranked 7th nationally in the subject area of public health, health services and primary care. 83% of outputs submitted by our academic staff members were judged as world leading or internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour. Our impacts were also judged to be outstanding or very considerable in terms of reach and significance. The department was ranked equal first nationally for its research environment and all aspects of our research environment were judged to producing research of world-leading quality in terms of vitality and sustainability.

Integral to our mission is career support, including doctoral studentships and fellowships, as well as the supportive management of those reaching the end of their research contracts.

The Department is located in modern, purpose-built accommodation on the University’s Heslington West Campus and includes 280 academics, teachers, researchers and support staff engaged in delivering research, professional development, education and training. Teaching and research programmes are underpinned by excellent administrative support systems for staff. The University has an institutional research strategy www.york.ac.uk/research/ to which the
Department contributes by developing strong and well-resourced research groups. Our research is characterised by: interdisciplinary and international collaboration; a robust scientific foundation; and relevance for policy and practice.

The Department organises its research activities around six core themes: mental health and addiction (Professor Simon Gilbody); trials and statistics (Professor David Torgerson); public health and society (Professor Kate Pickett); cancer epidemiology (Professor Eve Roman); cardiovascular health (Professor Patrick Doherty); and health services and policy (Professor Karen Bloor).

Our research focus is supported by access to and innovative use of population data (including Department-led patient-based data systems), in addition to intervention studies conducted by the Department’s trials unit (York Trials Unit) and expertise in secondary data analysis, systematic reviewing and qualitative research. Academic disciplines represented in the Department include epidemiology, biostatistics, health economics, social policy, sociology and applied psychology. Our multi-disciplinary staff group also includes clinical academics involved in public health, primary care and mental health.

Our research rests on close partnerships with health and social care agencies and local and national government, in addition to various third sector organisations and international agencies, such as the World Health Organisation (WHO).

For more details about the Department of Health Sciences and our teaching and research activities please visit our website: http://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/
THE UNIVERSITY

Founded on principles of excellence, equality and opportunity for all, the University of York opened in 1963 with just 230 students. In 2019 it is the home of more than 18,000 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 one of just six post-war universities to have appeared in the world top 100. We were rated 22nd in the 2019 Times & Sunday Times league table. 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 multiple 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 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 7876
- Complete the online application form

You will need to submit your completed application by midnight (local UK time) on 23 August 2019

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 kate.pickett@york.ac.uk

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

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