

**THE POST**

**College:** College of Humanities (<http://humanities.exeter.ac.uk/>)

**Post:** Associate Research Fellow

**Reference No:** P52287 & P52288

**Grade:** E

**HERA:** ARF

**Reporting To:** Head of Discipline

**Responsible For:** -

The above full-time post is available from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 in the College of Humanities.

**Job Description**

**Main purpose of the job and how to apply:**

We are inviting applications from post-doctoral researchers to pursue research on the history of sexual science, ca. 1890-1940, as part of the Wellcome Trust-funded Rethinking Sexology project.

Two Associate Research Fellows are required to work on a major Wellcome Trust funded project exploring the emergence of the scientific study of sexuality. They will each carry out their own archival research, work towards a monograph of international standing or equivalent, lead the development of a broader thematic area, host workshops/a conference, produce appropriate publications (such as a thematic journal issue or edited volume), and collectively plan and contribute to the project's public engagement and impact activities. The proposed research projects must have a historical focus, but we explicitly welcome applications from researchers across humanities and social science disciplines.

As part of their application, applicants should outline a major research project with a level of ambition commensurate with a funded three-year project. First, a 'project outline' should describe the object of study, its importance, the research context, methodology and sources to be used, and proposed outputs (max. 1000 words). Second, applicants should outline the broader thematic area in which their research project will be situated, and how it relates to the project's main themes and goals (see project summary and goals below). This should explain the ways in which the project will support the development of scholarship in this area through collaboration/workshops, etc. (max. 500 words). Third, the applicant should provide a timetable of work for the three year period (maximum one side A4). Applicants should also submit a cover letter and full academic CV. Candidates will be assessed on the basis of their research proposal, their academic track record, and the fit of their project within the wider team.

**Project Summary:**

This project represents a fundamental rethinking of the emergence of the scientific study of human sexuality in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and reconsiders how modern understandings of sexuality were constructed. We critique the hitherto dominant assumption that 'sexology' existed as a clearly understood and primarily medical field of knowledge. We present a new account of the rise of a cross-disciplinary 'sexual science' driven by dissatisfaction with exclusively medical approaches. From the 1890s, medical doctors argued that a properly scientific understanding of sexuality required input from additional areas of knowledge (e.g. anthropology, biology, history, literature, psychology, sociology). This project offers the first full investigation of the conceptual and cultural factors driving the evolution of a cross-disciplinary sexual science: the desire to understand the global variety of sexual behaviour; an interest in historical and cultural

variation; and a new focus on the 'normal' and 'healthy' alongside the 'pathological' and 'abnormal'. We examine the ways in which these studies challenged biological explanations of sexuality, raising questions about the 'nature/nurture' divide, and brought imperially-shaped debates about race, the primitive, civilization and degeneration into the heart of sexual science. Thus the project sheds new light on the evolution of a range of categories that are central to understandings of human behaviour in the modern world.

### **Project Goals:**

The Rethinking Sexology project has three intersecting high-level goals:

- a) The Rethinking Sexology project aims to offer a new history of sexual science by examining the cross-disciplinary dialogue that was central to sexual science as it emerged and took shape across the Western world (and beyond) from 1890 to 1940. The project is structured around four overlapping and broadly conceived core themes:
  - i. The cross-disciplinary dimensions of sexual science
  - ii. The global expansion of sexual science
  - iii. The relation between health and pathology, normal and abnormal
  - iv. The conceptualization of nature and nurture in modern constructions of sexuality
- b) The project investigates the history of cross-disciplinary collaboration across the Humanities, Social Sciences, Life Sciences and Medicine. It seeks to understand the dynamics of cross-disciplinary collaboration in the past to address challenges in the Medical Humanities and related fields in the present.
- c) The project also uses historical insights as part of public engagement and impact initiatives today to engage with non-academic partners and to improve sexual health and wellbeing in the present.

### **Main duties and accountabilities:**

1. To undertake research as appropriate to the field of study including:
  - Writing up research work for publication, including journal articles and a co-edited volume or special journal issue; and research towards a monograph (to be completed after the project ends);
  - Developing research objectives and proposals for own or joint research;
  - Conducting and analysing archival work to support individual research and the research of the team as a whole;
  - Making presentations at national and international conferences and similar events;
  - Dealing with problems which may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines;
  - Analysing and interpreting the results of own research and generating original ideas based on outcomes;
  - Using new research techniques and methods;
  - Using initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, developing new research methods and extending the research portfolio;
  - Using creativity to analyse and interpret research data and draw conclusions on the outcomes.
  - Designing and leading public engagement and impact initiatives individually and as part of the research team
2. To be offered the opportunity to contribute to teaching and to be involved in the assessment of student knowledge including assisting in the supervision of student projects and in the development of student research skills, where appropriate.
3. To work in collaboration with colleagues as appropriate to the field of study including:
  - Contributing to collaborative decision making within the research group;
  - Contributing to the production of collaborative research reports and publications.
  - Preparing papers and presenting information on research progress and outcomes to bodies supervising research, e.g. steering groups.
4. To communicate complex information, orally, in writing and electronically.
5. To prepare proposals and applications to external bodies, e.g. for funding and contractual purposes

6. To contribute to the planning of research projects.
7. To take responsibility for conducting research ethically, including applying for ethical approval, conducting risk assessments and showing consideration for the health and wellbeing of others.
8. To monitor research budgets as appropriate.
9. To engage in continuous professional development and to be responsible for continually updating knowledge and understanding in field of study or specialism and for developing skills.

This job description summarises the main duties and accountabilities of the post and is not comprehensive: the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties of similar level and responsibility. Please visit the Human Resources website to view the Research Fellow role profiles.

### **Person Specification**

<b>Competency</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Attainments/Qualifications	PhD (or nearing completion) or equivalent qualification/experience in a related field of study.	
Skills and Understanding	Sufficient knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes.	Evidence of research activity and published research.
Prior Experience	Background in a discipline appropriate to the proposed research project.	Experience of conducting archival research.  Experience of interdisciplinary research.  Experience of participating in public engagement initiatives.  Experience of undergraduate teaching.
Behavioural Characteristics	Excellent written and verbal communication skills.  Able to communicate material of a specialist or highly technical nature.  Able to manage research and administrative activities and to balance the competing pressures of research and administrative demands and deadlines.  Able to liaise and collaborate with colleagues and students.  Able to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks for the exchange of information and collaboration.  Able to identify potential sources of funding.  Able to participate as a member of a cross-disciplinary research	

	<p>team, including collaborative research analysis and co-authorship (if appropriate).</p> <p>Engage in continuous professional development.</p> <p>Understand equal opportunity issues as they may impact on areas of research content.</p> <p>Understand ethical issues raised by research and public engagement activities.</p>	
Circumstances		

### **Informal Enquiries**

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting the principal investigators, Professor Kate Fisher (e-mail: [k.fisher@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:k.fisher@exeter.ac.uk) or tel: 01392 723293) and Dr Jana Funke (e-mail: [J.Funke@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:J.Funke@exeter.ac.uk) or tel: 01392 725612).

### **Additional Information Relating to the Post**

#### **Salary**

The starting salary will be on Grade E, £25,769 to £28,982 per annum, points 23 to 27, subject to knowledge, skills and experience. Progression beyond point 27 is subject to performance in the role.

An increment will be payable on 1 August each year until the top of the scale is reached (subject to being in post for 6 months and satisfactory performance). The scale will be subject to a cost of living review each year.

#### **Hours of work**

Full time appointments are contracted to work a 36.5 hour week, over five days, to suit the requirements of the College, as notified by the College Dean. The hours of part-time staff are specified in the letter of appointment.

#### **Annual Leave**

The annual leave entitlement for full-time appointments is 41 days per calendar year (pro rata for part-time appointments). For further information see our website <http://www.admin.ex.ac.uk/personnel/leave.shtml>.

#### **Probationary Period**

The appointment will normally be subject to a probationary period of one year.

#### **References & Medical Clearance**

All appointments are subject to satisfactory reference and medical checks and individuals will be required to complete a medical assessment form before appointment is confirmed. Applicants should note that the University normally contacts referees for short-listed applicants without further advice to applicants. When advising of referees, if they are resident overseas, please ensure you supply fax numbers and/or email addresses enabling us to contact them (if necessary) without delay.

#### **Right to Work in the United Kingdom**

If you do not have the right to work in the UK, this appointment will be subject to the University successfully obtaining a Certificate of Sponsorship under the UK's Points Based System for migrant workers and to you obtaining Entry Clearance/Leave to Remain.

For further information, see the Home Office website at <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/>. In particular you are encouraged to undertake a self assessment of your eligibility to work in the UK using the link to [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/pointscalculator](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/pointscalculator).

#### **Terms & Conditions**

The Terms and Conditions of Employment can be viewed on line by visiting <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/staff/employment/conditions/terms/>

### **Pensions**

Membership of the Universities' Superannuation Scheme (USS) is automatic provided that you meet the qualifying criteria for membership. For details on the scheme please go to the <https://forthefuture.uss.co.uk>. Staff automatically become members and employee contributions will be taken from your pay unless you opt out in accordance with the current rules of the scheme. More information about the USS scheme can be found at [www.uss.co.uk/members](http://www.uss.co.uk/members). The University, as your employer, contributes such sums as will be required to maintain the full benefits of the scheme. You may opt out of the scheme and if you wish to do so, you should contact the Pensions and Reward Advisor, Mrs Alison Rose (01392 723088/email [a.j.rose@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:a.j.rose@exeter.ac.uk)) for further information.

### **Relocation**

You may be able to claim relocation expenses in accordance with the University's Relocation Assistance Scheme. The maximum allowance that you can reclaim under the Relocation Assistance Scheme, if eligible, is 10% of salary.

### **Short-listing Information**

We will acknowledge your application by email. The University of Exeter recognises the time and effort taken to apply for a position and will contact you by email to inform you of results of shortlisting

### **Application Procedure and Interview Information**

The closing date for completed applications is **30 June 2016**.

### **Data Protection Act (1998)**

The information contained within your application is being requested to enable the University to make employment decisions and meet statutory obligations. Any information provided to the University in this context will be treated confidentially and used only by manager(s), member of the University, Human Resources, Superannuation and Payroll during the course of your employment. Where the application relates to a post which is externally funded this information may be passed onto the relevant funding body.