THE POST

College: Social Sciences and International Studies (SSIS)
Post: Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Reference No: P65705
Grade: F
HERA: RFEL
Reporting To: Co-Director of Exeter Centre for the Study of the Life Sciences
Responsible For: N/A

The above full-time post is available from 1 May 2019 to 31 December 2021 in the Exeter Centre for the Study of the Life Sciences, Department of Sociology, Philosophy and Anthropology. The post holder will also become a member of the Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence of the University of Exeter and will work closely with the Alan Turing Institute, who is funding the research position in collaboration with the University of Exeter.

Job Description

Main purpose of the job:

The College wishes to recruit a Postdoctoral Research Fellow to participate in the project “From Field Data to Global Indicators: Towards a Framework for Intelligent Plant Data Linkage”. This project investigates the conditions under which plant data can be efficiently and reliably linked across data platforms and infrastructures around the world through engagement with a variety of stakeholders involved in the development and use of plant data infrastructures in Europe, North-America and the Global South. The successful applicant will work closely with the PI and project partners to: (1) build an international collaborative network to facilitate innovative thinking around data linkage; (2) identify salient differences between existing initiatives and investigate the reasons for those differences to develop an empirical understanding of the state of play; (3) develop large funding bids to support innovative data linkage strategies and tools.

Main duties and accountabilities:

1. To undertake research as appropriate to the field of study. The responsibilities may include all or some of the following:
   - Acting as principal investigator on research projects;
   - Developing research objectives, projects and proposals;
   - Conducting individual or collaborative research projects;
   - Identifying sources of funding and contributing to the process of securing funds;
   - Extending, transforming and applying knowledge acquired from scholarship to research and appropriate external activities;
   - Writing or contributing to publications or disseminating research findings using media appropriate to the discipline;
   - Making presentations at conferences or exhibiting work in other appropriate events;
   - Assessing, interpreting and evaluating outcomes of research;
   - Developing new concepts and ideas to extend intellectual understanding;
   - Resolving problems of meeting research objectives and deadlines;
- Developing ideas for generating income and promoting research area;
- Developing ideas for application of research outcomes;
- Deciding on /following research programmes and methodologies, often in collaboration with colleagues and sometimes subject to the approval of the head of the research programme on fundamental issues.

2. To contribute to teaching and learning programmes in the School and to supervise postgraduate research students.

3. To act as research team leader including:
   - Mentoring colleagues with less experience and advising on their professional development;
   - Coaching and supporting colleagues in developing their research techniques;
   - Supervising the work of others, for example in research teams or projects;
   - Developing productive working relationships with other members of staff;
   - Co-ordinating the work of colleagues to ensure equitable access to resources and facilities;
   - Dealing with standard problems and help colleagues to resolve their concerns about progress in research.

4. To routinely communicate complex and conceptual ideas to those with limited knowledge as well as to peers using high level skills and a range of media and to present the results of scientific research to sponsors and at conferences.

5. As determined by the nature of the project and at the direction of the PI, to plan, co-ordinate and implement research programme activity including:
   - Managing the use of research resources and ensuring that effective use is made of them;
   - Monitoring and reporting on the use of research budgets;
   - Helping to plan and implement commercial and consultancy activities;
   - Where appropriate, to plan and manage own consultancy assignments.

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**

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<th>Competency</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attainments/Qualifications</td>
<td>PhD or equivalent qualification/experience in the history, philosophy, social studies and/or anthropology of science; or in any research area concerned with data science, data curation, computational ontologies, knowledge infrastructures or data studies.</td>
<td>Be a nationally recognised authority in one or more of these subject areas.</td>
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<td>Skills and Understanding</td>
<td>Possess sufficient specialist knowledge in the discipline to develop/follow research programmes and methodologies. Record of research output in high quality publications. Interest in plant biology, agronomy and/or crop research. Interest in data infrastructures.</td>
<td>Experience in working with biologists, breeders, data scientists and/or international research agencies. Experience in qualitative social science methods such as interviews and ethnographic research.</td>
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<td>Prior Experience</td>
<td>Experience of managing research projects and coordinating research teams.</td>
<td>Experience of undergraduate/postgraduate teaching and supervision. Experience of acting as principal investigator on research projects.</td>
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| Behavioural Characteristics | Excellent written and verbal communication skills.  
Able to communicate complex and conceptual ideas to a range of groups.  
Evidence of the ability to collaborate actively within the Institution and externally to complete research projects and advance thinking.  
Able to participate in and develop external networks.  
Able to balance the pressures of research, administrative demands and competing deadlines. | Able to identify sources of funding, generate income, obtain consultancy projects, or build relationships for future activities. |
| Circumstances | Ability to travel nationally and internationally in order to conduct fieldwork and collaborate with colleagues at the Alan Turing Institute and elsewhere. | |

**Informal Enquiries**
Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting Sabina Leonelli, Professor of Philosophy and History of Science, email s.leonelli@exeter.ac.uk.