

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow
School/Department:	Research (HAPP)
Reference:	21/109357
Closing Date:	Monday 6 December 2021
Salary:	£34,304 to £40,927 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Thursday 16 or Friday 17 December 2021
Duration:	33 Months

JOB PURPOSE:

This post has been created as part of the Explaining Atheism project, based at the Institute for Cognition and Culture, within the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics, Queen's University Belfast, and funded by the John Templeton Foundation.

This Project is led by Drs Jonathan Lanman (QUB), Lois Lee (Kent), and Aiyana Willard (Brunel) and aims to investigate the causal origins of individual and societal non-belief. The project will involve research by the core team, which the successful applicant will join, as well as the funding of and collaboration with approximately two-dozen additional research teams across numerous national contexts.

The primary duties of this position will be to lead on the design and implementation of large-scale cross-cultural surveys designed to examine the causes of atheism in 6 nations (Brazil, China, Denmark, Japan, UK, and USA).

The Postdoctoral Researcher will be involved in the design and implementation of the cross-cultural survey, in collaboration with the Project Leaders, PhD students, and outside collaborators. This position involves both data collection and data analysis and requires extensive data analysis skills, particularly in the areas of structural equation modelling and multilevel modelling. This position is funded for a fixed period of 33 months (24/1/2021-23/10/24).

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Design cross-cultural surveys in collaboration with Project Leaders, PhD students, and external collaborators. Some initial variables have already been selected (as described in Appendix). The postdoc will be expected to work within the project guidelines but will have extensive input of the final survey design and analyses.
2. Assist Project Leaders in the implementation of cross-cultural survey. This may involve coordinating with translators and external collaborators, implementing the survey on an online survey platform, and coordinating with an online-survey company.
3. Assist Project Leaders and relevant project staff in relation to all administrative aspects of research, including ethical approval, pilot testing, participant recruitment, and research assistant training.
4. Contribute to data analysis, manuscript preparation, submission, and revision.
5. Participate in the organization of group meetings and conferences.
6. Present lectures and seminars as required.

Planning and Organising:

1. Contribute to the planning and organising of data collection, storage, and analysis.
2. Contribute to the planning and organising of project workshops and conferences.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. Work flexibly and supportively as part of an international, interdisciplinary team.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have completed or in the final stages toward a PhD in Social Psychology, Experimental Psychology, Cross Cultural Psychology, Cognitive Anthropology, or a related discipline.
2. Substantial experience in designing and conducting online surveys, psychology experiments and/or other quantitative research with humans.
3. Demonstrable interest in the cognitive science of religion (and other psychological approaches to religion), cross-cultural psychology, and/or cognitive anthropology.
4. Demonstrable quantitative statistical skills.
5. Extensive experience and ability to independently conduct statistical analyses using R, SPSS, or other statistical software.
6. Experience of contributing to a wide range of administrative tasks.
7. Demonstrable organizational skills.
8. Ability to work flexibly and supportively as part of an international, interdisciplinary team.
9. Evidence of scholarly activity e.g. conference papers, book reviews, involvement in national and international scholarly networks.
10. Excellent interpersonal and communication (oral and written) skills, including the ability to work as an effective team member.
11. Excellent oral communication and presentation skills.
12. Fluency in written and spoken English.
13. Ability to travel for conferences and meetings associated with the project.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Demonstrable familiarity with the literature on the cognitive science of religion (and other psychological approaches to religion, particularly theories of atheism), cross-cultural psychology and cognitive anthropology more generally.
2. Ability to code in R and/or Python.
3. Ability to conduct multi-level models, structural equation models, Bayesian analyses, and knowledge of causal graphs.
4. Experiences with translation for empirical research.
5. Familiarity with Qualtrics data collection platform.
6. Demonstrable understanding of the key programme information for potential applicants outlined in the appendix below.