Candidate Information

Position: Research Fellow - Development of Social Cognition amidst Polarization
School/Department: Psychology
Reference: 23/111436
Closing Date: Monday 4 December 2023
Salary: £37,841 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date: Thursday 14 December 2023
Duration: Fixed term until 31 October 2025

JOB PURPOSE:

To be an active member of the research project/team assisting in the planning and delivery of the research activity to meet the overall research objectives of this Templeton World Charity Foundation funded project, titled "Communicating 'Truth:' Consumption and transmission of polarized information amongst young people in a divided society".

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Develop and plan an area of personal research and expertise, under the supervision of the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators related to the development of social cognition and polarization and contribute to the objectives of the funded project titled "Communicating 'Truth:' Consumption and transmission of polarized information amongst young people in a divided society".
2. Design, develop and refine research questionnaires and experiments to answer research questions related to this area of research.
3. Develop competence in mixed-method research techniques including text analysis, qualitative interviews, field research and/or experiments in order to obtain reliable data. Training will be available.
4. Carry out analyses, critical evaluations, and interpretations using methodologies and other techniques appropriate to area of research.
5. Present regular progress reports on research to members of the research group or to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
6. Prepare, often in consultation with supervisor, material for publication in national and international journals and presentations at international conferences.
7. Assist grant holder in the preparation of funding proposals and applications to external bodies if required.
8. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research project to ensure that project is completed on time and within budget. These might include organisation of project meetings and documentation, financial control, and risk assessment of research activities.
9. Organise and carry out research engagement and impact activities, such as presenting research findings to young people and community organisations, or writing policy briefs.
10. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments in own specialism and related disciplines.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have or about to obtain a PhD in Psychology or a relevant area such as Cognitive or Behavioural Science.
2. Recent relevant research experience.
3. Demonstrable experience in designing, conducting, and analysing empirical studies with children and/or adolescents.
4. Demonstrable experience successfully collaborating with schools and/or community organisations, teachers and/or youth workers, and young people to recruit samples and collect data.
5. Proven expertise using statistical packages SPSS and/or R to analyse, interpret and present on quantitative data.
6. Track record of high quality published empirical journal articles commensurate with stage of career.
7. Strong level of analytical capability.

8. Must demonstrate a keen enthusiasm for working with young people and for working as part of an international, multidisciplinary collaborative research team.
9. Proven ability to communicate with and relate to others at all levels, both internally and externally.
10. Proven ability to work independently with a high level of self-motivation, whilst also working in a wider team.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:
1. Demonstrable experience of using research methodologies and techniques relevant to the research project, including one or more of the following:
   • Proven experience with mixed-method research software, such as Dedoose.
   • Proven experience of using online experimental software, and especially Qualtrics.
   • Proven expertise in natural language processing techniques (e.g. Python or R) and large language models.
   • Experience designing, conducting and analysing interviews with children or adolescents.
2. Knowledge of cultural and socio-political context of Northern Ireland and/or other historically divided societies.
3. Enthusiasm for mixed-method studies and synthesising findings across methods.
4. Experience planning, implementing and evaluating research engagement and impact activities with a range of audiences.
5. Track record of engaging with open science practices.