

Job Description

Title: Research Fellow in Social Cognition and Digital Media

Grade: 7

Department: Experimental Psychology

Location: London

Reports to:

Professor Ana Guinote

Context

The post holder will be employed on a grant funded by the Collaboration of Humanities and Social Sciences. The consortium includes 5 partners, representing Western (Germany), Eastern (Poland), Southern (Spain) and Nordic (Sweden, UK) parts of Europe. Prof Ana Guinote is the PI for the UK. The project will examine the role of digital media in social and cultural transformations driven by the dynamics of digital media use and individual, group or cultural differences in motives and biases of the digital users.

The main purpose of the job.

To contribute to a project of high quality research on self-selection processes and echo chamber phenomena (on topics such as climate change or attitudes towards refugees or Muslims) that arise via social media use, considering the role of social psychological motives and needs of individuals.

Duties and responsibilities.

- To design experiments involving digital media use and focusing on social-psychological processes, in consultation with Prof Ana Guinote.
- To develop materials and to programme studies

- To collect data in the lab and online
- To run, interpret and report data analyses.
- To help implement a three-wave longitudinal survey in the UK in collaboration with the grant collaborators.
- To project manage research activities, and/or supervise other research staff, including research assistants, PhD and MSc students within the team.
- To liaise appropriately with Prof Ana Guinote, and with the international collaborators. This includes providing help and assistance as required.
- To write-up the results of experiments.
- To prepare and present findings of research activity to colleagues for review purposes.
- To contribute to the drafting and submitting of manuscripts to appropriate peer-reviewed journals.
- To prepare progress reports on research for the funding body as required.
- To contribute to the preparation and drafting of research bids and proposals.
- To communicate and disseminate findings with stakeholders, as needed.

Other

- Responsible for ensuring that equipment is safe and maintained in working order.
- As duties and responsibilities change, the job description will be reviewed and amended in consultation with the postholder.
- The postholder will actively follow UCL policies including Equal Opportunities and Race Equality policies.
- The postholder will maintain an awareness and observation of Fire and Health & Safety Regulations.

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential or Desirable	Assessment method (Application/Interview)
Qualifications, experience, and knowledge		
PhD in Psychology or a closely related field	Essential	Application
Extensive experience in experimental social psychology, experimental social sciences or experimental digital media research. This includes experience in designing and conducting lab experiments and/or online social media experiments (as documented by publication/conference participation record).	Essential	Application/Interview
A documented career in the field of social cognition, judgment and decision making (e.g., belief updating), social psychology (social influence), human-computer interaction or social sciences (with relevant scientific publications, conference presentations, research collaborations)	Desirable	Application/Interview
Publication record in topics relevant to this post. In particular, the post-holder should have publications involving digital media use (for instance, in the fields of disinformation, conspiracy theories, echo chambers, and digital social influence processes etc).	Essential	Application/Interview
Experience of successfully providing supervisory guidance to undergraduate, MSc and/or PhD students.	Desirable	Application/Interview
Skills and abilities		
Very good command of quantitative research methods, statistical analysis, including a very good command of SPSS or other relevant packages	Essential	Application/Interview
Prior experience with programming tools (e.g. JavaScript and server-side Pytho, E-prime, PsychoPy), and programming of on-line experiments.	Essential	Application/Interview
Extensive experience of computational modelling using Python or C++, etc.	Desirable	Application/Interview
Good knowledge of research in social influence, group processes and social identity, social cognition, judgment and decision making	Desirable	Application/Interview
Personal attributes		
Commitment to high quality research	Essential	Application/Interview
Ability to work collaboratively and as part of a team	Essential	Application/Interview
Commitment to UCL's policy of equal opportunity and the ability to work harmoniously with colleagues and students of all cultures and backgrounds	Essential	Application/Interview

