

# Job Description

## FATIGUE Early Stage Researcher

### Institute of International Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

The Institute of International Studies at Charles University is seeking to appoint two high-calibre Early Stage Researchers (ESR) to join the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network on 'Delayed Transformational Fatigue in Central and Eastern Europe: Responding to the Rise of Illiberalism/Populism' (FATIGUE).

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| <b>Position</b>      | <b>Early Stage Researcher 5: Politicisation of commemorative practices in Eastern Europe</b>  |
| <b>Location:</b>     | Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic (Years 1 and 3) and UCL, London, UK (Year 2)   |
| <b>Working Time:</b> | Full Time (36.5 hours per week)   |
| <b>Duration:</b>     | Fixed-Term (1st August 2018 – 31th July 2021)   |
| <b>Salary:</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• €31,274.16 (before employer and employee deductions – fixed for period of the appointment) per annum, plus a monthly taxable mobility allowance of €600 – paid in CZK using an appropriate conversion rate.</li> <li>• If applicable, an additional taxable monthly family allowance of €500.</li> </ul> |

## About FATIGUE

Following the collapse of state socialism, the liberalisation of public life, democratisation of politics, abolition of state-run economies and the introduction of markets commenced in the states of the former Soviet bloc. These necessary yet socially costly transformations never ran smoothly and in the same direction in all the post-communist states but by the mid-2000s the most successful countries, clustered in Central Europe and the Baltic, seemed to have managed to consolidate liberal democracy. Then something snapped. The political trajectory veered off in new directions as populist parties started gaining more support. All populists engage in delegitimising the democratic system in the name of unconstrained majoritarianism. Now we have two cases (Hungary and Poland) where right-wing populists are in power and dismantling the institutions of checks and balances, and cases where the dominance of technocratic or left populists (Czechia, Slovakia) seems to risk democratic erosion. FATIGUE aims to explain and interpret this puzzling U-turn, reflect on its delayed emergence, diagnose its consequences and propose viable policy solutions. 15 ESRs will be appointed at six partner universities.

For further information about the Programme visit [www.ucl.ac.uk/ssees/fatigue](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ssees/fatigue).

## The Role

ESR5 will be enrolled on the PhD programme at the Institute of International Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University and will write their thesis on a topic related to 'Politicisation of commemorative practices in Eastern Europe', supervised by Dr Maria Asavei and Dr Jiří Vykoukal at Charles University and by Prof. Jan Kubik at UCL. Further information about the PhD project is below:

**Title:** Politicisation of commemorative practices in Eastern Europe

**Objectives:** ESR5 will investigate commemorative practices in Central Europe, South East Europe and the post-Soviet area with a view to identifying similarities and differences in the ways in which politicians and historians interpret the events being remembered. The ESR can choose to focus on the memory of World Wars I and II, the annihilation of Jews and Roma, post-war migration, or communism and post-communism

**Expected results:** The research will demonstrate, through the study of commemorative practices, how different meanings can be attached to single historical events for social and political purposes and show how these practices are 'packaged' for popular consumption, thus helping explain the role and function of memory in contemporary politics, particularly in the rise of populism.

**Planned secondment(s):** In Year 2 ESR5 will spend 10 months at UCL and at the British Library.

The ESR's PhD must be designed and conceived as an integral part of the overall FATIGUE project. The successful candidate will be a team player, prepared to work closely with the Project's senior staff and other ESRs. By the end of the third year the ESR will be expected to complete a publishable chapter for the volume constituting one of the major deliverables of FATIGUE. This chapter can be a part of the PhD dissertation, which, most likely, will be completed at a later date.

This is an outstanding opportunity to be part of a network of leading scholars working on one of the most pressing political issues of the contemporary period. In addition to PhD supervision, the successful candidate will benefit from a wide-ranging training programme, which will encompass:

- a) An introductory workshop on the current state-of-the-art with regard to delayed transformational fatigue in Central and Eastern Europe and the rise of populism and anti-establishment politics;
- b) Two workshops on interdisciplinary Area Studies methods;
- c) An overseas research trip to one of the partner universities in the FATIGUE consortium;
- d) A secondment to a non-academic training partner; and
- e) A research-to-policy/stakeholder engagement workshop.

The ESR will help organise and present their research at a major international conference on the themes of the FATIGUE research programme.

## Duties & Responsibilities

1. Undertake postgraduate research in support of the agreed doctoral research project.
2. Work closely with the academic supervisors to ensure the compatibility of the individual project with the overall goals of FATIGUE.
3. Present and publish research to both academic and non-academic audiences.
4. Attend and participate in academic and non-academic conferences, events and seminars.
5. Attend and participate in all training events and supervisory meetings.
6. Be seconded to other network partners as necessary to fulfil the grant obligations.
7. Prepare progress reports and similar documents on research for funding bodies, as required.
8. Contribute to the delivery and management of the wider Programme, including attending and participating in programme committee meetings.
9. Undertake any other relevant duties as directed by the Programme Director.

## Person Specification

1. A good Undergraduate degree and a postgraduate Master's degree (or equivalent) in social science or history.
2. Excellent written and verbal communication, including presentation skills.

3. Highly proficient English language skills.
4. Excellent organisational skills, attention to detail and the ability to meet deadlines.
5. Ability to think logically, create solutions and make informed decisions.
6. Willingness to work collaboratively in a research environment.
7. A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.
8. Ability to travel and work across Europe.

## Eligibility Requirements

All candidates must meet the following requirements to be considered for this post:

- a) Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs) shall at the time of recruitment by the host organisation be in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and not yet have been awarded a doctoral degree. Full-time equivalent research experience is measured from the date when a researcher obtained the degree which would formally entitle him or her to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited.
- b) At the time of recruitment by the host organisation, researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the three years immediately prior to the recruitment date. Compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.

## How to apply

Application to FATIGUE must be submitted online to [jiri.vykoukal@post.cz](mailto:jiri.vykoukal@post.cz), followed by the application submitted to one of the two PhD programs at the Institute of International Studies according to <https://is.cuni.cz/studium/eng/prijimacky/index.php?do=obory> (deadline end of April 2018); entrance exam: end of June 2018.

The application must include:

- a) A cover letter explaining your motivation for applying.
- b) A Curriculum Vitae setting out your educational qualifications as well as any additional scientific achievements and publications.
- c) Evidence of Advanced-level English – IELTS (or equivalent) overall grade of 7.5 with a minimum of 6.5 in each of the subtests. See also: [www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/life/international](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/life/international).
- d) A research proposal on the theme of ‘Politicisation of commemorative practices in Eastern Europe’. The proposal should be no longer than 2,000 words (excluding the bibliography) and follow the guidelines here: [www.ucl.ac.uk/ssees/how-apply](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ssees/how-apply).
- e) A copy of your Master’s certificate (or equivalent) or certificate of graduation.
- f) An official transcript of the completed subjects and grades achieved in the course of the Master’s programme.
- g) Two letters of recommendation from researchers familiar with your academic activities, e.g. the advisor of your Master’s thesis. The referees must e-mail their recommendations directly to [jiri.vykoukal@post.cz](mailto:jiri.vykoukal@post.cz).

Applications close on 28 February 2018 and interviews are anticipated to be held in early April 2018.

## Further Information

For more information about the post, please contact: Dr. Jiří Vykoukal ([jiri.vykoukal@post.cz](mailto:jiri.vykoukal@post.cz)).