

Job Description

Post Title and Post Number	Research Fellow - 51057
Organisation Advertising Description	School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion College of Arts and Law
Post Number	51057
Full Time/Part Time	Part Time – 30%
Duration of post	Fixed term
Post is open to:	External and Internal candidates
Grade	7
Salary	Starting salary is normally in the range £27,854 to £36,298. With potential progression once in post to £38,522 a year.
Terms and Conditions	Research and analogous
Closing Date	11 July 2013

Job Summary

This post arises from an AHRC Fellowship awarded to Professor Lisa Bortolotti for a project entitled “The Epistemic Innocence of Imperfect Cognitions”. The project aims to develop the notion of epistemic innocence and to investigate whether delusional beliefs, distorted memories and confabulatory explanations can ever have epistemic benefits which outweigh their epistemic faults. The post is fixed term for 12 months, starting 2 September 2013, and part time at 30% FTE. For more information about the project, please contact Professor Lisa Bortolotti at l.bortolotti@bham.ac.uk or visit the project webpage: www.birmingham.ac.uk/epistemicinnocence .

Main Details

1. Developing research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, with assistance of a mentor if required
2. Conducting research through a variety of methods and analysing and interpreting data
3. Conducting literature reviews
4. Disseminating research outcomes via conference papers and research articles to be published in peer-reviewed journals
5. Contributing to the preparation of an edited collection or special issue of a journal featuring recent work on themes of the project

6. Organising the project workshop
7. Maintaining and regularly updating the project webpage, Twitter feed and blog
8. Applying knowledge in a way which develops new intellectual understanding
9. Contributing to the development of new models, techniques and methods
10. Undertaking management/administration arising from research
11. Contributing to Departmental/School research-related activities and research-related administration
12. Providing guidance, as required, to support staff and any students who may be assisting with the research
13. Dealing with problems that may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines

Knowledge, Skills, Qualifications and Experience Required

- First degree in area of specialism and a PhD relevant to research area (Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Psychology, Philosophy of Psychiatry).
- High level analytical capability
- Ability to communicate complex information clearly
- Fluency in relevant models, techniques or methods and ability to contribute to developing new ones
- Ability to assess resource requirements and use resources effectively
- Understanding of and ability to contribute to broader management/administration processes

Decision Making/Problem Solving

- i) without reference to others
 - Manage personal administrative tasks related to own work
- (ii) after consulting others
 - Decide in consultation with the principal investigator as appropriate, on the most appropriate way of undertaking the specified research activities
 - Decide in consultation with the principal investigator as appropriate how to analyse and interpret the data from the specified research activities
 - Decide in consultation with the principal investigator as appropriate what knowledge to draw on and how to apply it to develop new intellectual understanding
 - Decide in collaboration with co-authors which aspects of the research findings to include in a presentation or a publication and how to convey the findings
- iii) or that would be referred to someone else.
 - Serious or complex problems of student pastoral care
 - Serious issues related to management of relationships with stakeholders or partner institutions

Communication skills

Contact

Purpose/skills required

Colleagues

Liaise with the PI and support staff on research-related matters. Liaise with external collaborators on the research where appropriate. Requires good communication and interpersonal skills.

External Audiences

Give presentations and/or contribute to presentations at national and/or international conferences. Maintain contact with (including membership of) appropriate professional bodies. Liaise with the relevant external research community via seminars and conferences. Maintain and regularly update the project webpage, Twitter feed and blog. Requires good public speaking skills, strong academic writing skills, confidence to represent the project and/or disseminate its outcomes, and basic understanding of online social networking.