Job Description

This form summarises the purpose of the job and lists its key tasks. It is not a definitive list of all the tasks to be undertaken as those can be varied from time to time at the discretion of the School, in consultation with the postholder.

Job title: Research Officer, VirtEU: a Horizon 2020 project

Department: Media and Communications   **Accountable to:** Dr Alison Powell

Job Summary

Dr Alison Powell has secured funding as part of a Horizon 2020 collaborative research project to analyze and map the ethical practices of European hardware and software entrepreneurs, maker and hacker spaces, and community innovators in order to:
- understand how Internet of Things (IoT) innovators enact ethics as they design future devices,
- generate a new framework for Privacy, Ethical and Social Impact Assessment (PESIA)
- develop tools to support ethical reflection and self-assessment as part the design and development process for IoT technologies.

The project has funding for a Research Officer based at LSE for 20 months from March 2018. A core task of the person taking this role is to undertake empirical research at one or more field sites in start-ups, small businesses or other IoT development contexts, documenting this work through project deliverables and peer-reviewed publications. A further core task is to collaborate with other project partners on the development of an ethical and social impact assessment framework to be co-designed along with IoT practitioners. The post-holder may also be asked, where appropriate, to contribute to funding bids to continue or expand upon the presently-funded research. The project is highly interdisciplinary and the post-holder will need to feel comfortable and confident working with colleagues in computer science, human-computer interaction, law and design, and be able to use online as well as conventional ethnographic methods.

The Research Officer will be based at the Department of Media and Communications at LSE. They will work with a degree of independence, within the broader European Project research team, under the supervision of Dr Alison Powell. As well as pursuing the objectives of the research project, the Research Officer will be expected to play an active role in the life and activities of the Department of Media and Communication.

Duties and Responsibilities

Range of Research Activities and Responsibilities
- Developing field sites for research on IoT communities of practice based on the mapping of the field.
- Conducting situated, ethnographically-driven field research within specific communities of practice either independently or in a team.
- Setting up and maintaining an interdisciplinary network of collaborators within and beyond the framework of the current funded research.

- Collaborating with researchers on the production of project deliverables, taking the lead on their production as appropriate
- Demonstrating the ability to analyse and research complex ideas, concepts or theories and applying appropriate methodologies.
- Designing and conducting field-work.
- Contributing to the formulation of peer reviewed research grant proposals.
- Writing up research for publication in a variety of modes including peer reviewed journals.
- Initiating and sustaining links with external bodies to foster collaboration.
- Presenting research papers at seminars/conferences.
- Contributing to communications and dissemination from the project.
- Organising research meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops.
- Contributing creative solutions to research challenges.

Activities relating to administration and management and/or School service may include:
- Playing a constructive role in the life of the Centre/Institute/Department.
- Managing the activities of research assistants on a day-to-day basis.

All of the above subject to the contractual obligations imposed by the external funding agency and with the agreement of the grant-holder, Principal Investigator and/or Head of Centre.

Note
The LSE has a progressive pay structure that rewards you with annual pay increases up to a certain level as you develop in your role. We also provide for further reward past this point in the form of further pay increases based on exceptional performance.

Flexibility
To deliver services effectively, a degree of flexibility is needed, and the post holder may be required to perform work not specifically referred to above.

Equality and Diversity
To uphold the School's commitment to equality of respect and opportunity, as set out in the Ethics Code, we will treat all people with dignity and respect, and ensure that no one will be treated less favourably because of their role at the School, age, sex, disability, gender identity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, or social and economic background. For the full Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy statement, please see the EDI website.

Environmental Sustainability
The post holder is required to minimise environmental impact in the performance of the role, and actively contribute to the delivery of the LSE Environmental Policy.