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: Postdoctoral Fellow

Department/Division: Psychological and Behavioral Science   **Accountable to:**

Job Summary

Psychological and Behavioral Sciences seeks to appoint a full-time Postdoctoral Fellow where you will be working on the world's first comprehensive online quantitative and qualitative database of history. The Database of Religious History (DRH) is an exciting project designed to serve as a centralized system for scholarly knowledge of the historical record.

The successful candidate will have or be close to completing a PhD in a relevant field (e.g. Psychology, Anthropology, Biology, Economics). They must have advanced knowledge of statistics / data science, and intermediate programming in relevant languages (Python, R, C++, HTML/CSS/JS). Training or a relevant degree in computer science, software engineering, computer systems engineering, operational research, information technology, or similar; experience with web technologies (in particular Django, React, node.js, Docker, Ansible, AWS); and previous experience in a similar position or equivalent qualifications is highly valued.

Reporting directly to Dr Michael Muthukrishna, the successful candidate will be involved with research related to the Database of Religious History (DRH) and using DRH data. They will work with, and coordinate a variety of people from across the social sciences and humanities based around the world, including the Project Director, Managing Editor, historians, administrative personnel, and software developers. Part of their role will involve overseeing the ongoing development and expansion of the DRH project, some software development, some statistical analyses and associated reports and papers, and advising project leaders as required. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to work on and learn cutting edge technologies and cutting edge statistical and machine learning techniques under the mentorship of Dr Muthukrishna (B. Engineering in Software, DRH Technical Director). This role would be ideal for someone wanting to transition to a career in Data Science or who wants to write papers that employ data science skills. You will be based at the London School of Economics and Political Science, but may be required to travel.

In collaboration with the Dr Muthukrishna and the project team (including the software developers), the postholder's main role will be to take forward the expansion of the DRH project both in terms of software development and guiding data collection based on analyses of existing data. This will require advanced statistical skills, a strong understanding of at least one programming language, and the willingness and ability to learn more programming and more statistics and machine learning skills. Related experience will be strongly considered. The successful candidate will also have excellent written and verbal communication and organisational skills to coordinate research under the project.

Duties and Responsibilities

Analyze DRH data and guide data collection efforts.

Write, contribute and present papers for publication in peer reviewed journals.

Contribute to the formulation of peer reviewed research grant proposals, if required.

Coordinate and manage a team of professionals to oversee the expand and development of the existing system. These will include the software developers and non-technical personnel in the sciences and humanities.

Provide feedback and guidance to developers on the design and features of the system, consistent the Technical Director's vision for the project. These will include backend architectural decisions and front end design decisions. You will work closely with the Technical Director.

Provide regular updates to the Project Director, Technical Director and other relevant stakeholders

Assist with running training programs for historians/RAs who will enter information into the system

Create standard procedures and documentation to enhance scalability and performance of existing architecture and maintaining records on repair and installation

Supervise installation, migration and upgrade of platform.

Stay updated with new technologies and analyze such technologies to bring into scope of existing infrastructure.

Ensure that the conceptual design considers both back-end architecture and front-end accessibility for end-users

Design and develop new technologies related to the DRH (e.g. R packages)

Assist in managing social media presence in collaboration with Managing Editor and other staff, including existing platforms (Twitter and Facebook) and planned future platforms (Quora, blog).

Assist in organising conferences, workshops and seminars, as required.

Flexibility
To deliver services effectively, a degree of flexibility may be required in the duties performed in order to meet the exigencies of service. Job roles may also naturally develop over time and ongoing substantial changes to a role will be discussed between line managers and their staff, with job descriptions updated as and when appropriate.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)
LSE is committed to building a diverse, equitable and truly inclusive university. All posts (and post holders) will seek to ensure diversity and inclusion, while opposing all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, or social and economic background.

Ethics Code
Posts (and post holders) are assumed to have a responsibility to act in accordance with the School's Ethics Code and to promote the principles and values that the Code enshrines. The Ethics Code clearly states that the whole LSE community, including all staff, students, and governors of LSE, are expected to

act in accordance with the principles which are set out in the Code. As such you are required to read and familiarise yourself with it. The School's Effective Behaviours Framework is designed to support this Code. It sets out examples for the six behaviours that all staff are expected to demonstrate, these can be found on the following link: click here

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.