

JOB DESCRIPTION
Research Associate/Senior Research Associate in Geographical Information Systems,
Vacancy Ref: A889

Job Title: Research Associate/Senior Research Associate in Geographical Information Systems	Present Grade: 6P or 7P depending on qualifications and experience
Department/College: History	
Directly responsible to: Professor Ian Gregory, History	
Supervisory responsibility for:	
<p>Other contacts:</p> <p>Internal: Dr Paul Rayson, Dr Andrew Hardie, Other members of the project team</p> <p>External: Prof. R. Schwartz, Dr. P. Murrieta-Flores</p>	
<p>Further Details:</p> <p>The ERC has funded a five year project on “Spatial Humanities” which includes funding for this post as a fixed-term appointment (see www.lancs.ac.uk/spatialhum). The project runs from Jan 2012 to Dec 2016. The post holder will provide expertise and support in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to workpackage 3 of the project which is concerned with using quantitative and qualitative geographical sources to analyse long-term mortality change in England & Wales. The post will be based within the Department of History at Lancaster University and will involve close collaboration with colleagues in other departments and externally.</p> <p>The post-holder’s main responsibility will be to take a number of major existing georeferenced quantitative and textual sources and to conduct spatial analyses of them. The emphasis will be on using and developing GIS techniques that allow us to understand nineteenth century mortality change. This work will be based on an innovative combination of quantitative sources such as the census, and textual sources such as official reports and nineteenth century newspapers. This work builds on extensive work already conducted by this and earlier projects on creating these data sets and developing approaches to analysing them. This earlier work has concentrated on developing innovative methodologies for analysing large textual sources within GIS. The texts in question are particularly: the Histpop collection of the official reports that accompanied the census and the Registrar General’s reports on birth marriages and deaths (www.histpop.org), the Bopcris reports on parliamentary debates, and the British Library’s Nineteenth Century Newspapers collection (www.history.ac.uk/reviews/review/730). The post-holder will bring these together these very large and very diverse sources to conduct an analysis of the different ways in which different places experienced mortality decline through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.</p> <p>The role requires an in-depth knowledge of the use of GIS and spatial analysis in human geography as well as strong general IT skills. A knowledge of historical geography or historical demography would be an advantage.</p> <p>Major duties:</p> <p>To work under the overall supervision of Prof Gregory. The post will also involve extensive collaboration with the existing project team and a further RA (TBA) who will have primary responsibility for the historical aspects of the research. There will also be extensive collaboration with other members of the project team. The post-holder will be required to to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct research on the ERC funded project, “Spatial Humanities: Texts, GIS and places” by taking the lead on the GIS aspects of workpackage 3 “Bridging the quantitative and qualitative divide: Health and society in nineteenth and twentieth century England & Wales” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To conduct analyses on quantitative data from: the Great Britain Historical GIS (particularly mortality data, census data, and Poor Law data), a sample of migrations from 1750 to 1930 collected by Pooley & Turnbull (1998), and the <i>Agricultural Returns</i>. These analyses will help us describe patterns of mortality decline and the factors associated with them; 	

- To conduct analyses on georeferenced textual data. These sources allow us to establish where different organisations thought mortality and factors associated with it were important and to understand social and economic conditions in particular areas in depth;
 - To bring the quantitative and textual analyses together in collaboration with the History RA and other members of the project team to develop an understanding of factors associated with mortality decline;
 - To develop additional analytic techniques where appropriate to explore spatial or spatio-temporal patterns within quantitative and/or textual data;
 - To assist with the preparing datasets and any custom-written software for dissemination and archiving;
 - To assist with teaching summer schools and other project-sponsored training events;
 - To assist with organising and participating in a conference, expert meetings and other similar project-sponsored events;
2. To liaise with academic partners and colleagues within the University and externally.
 3. To contribute to the publication of REF-able quality academic articles, books and other publications arising from the project. This will be done either in collaboration with other members of the project team or individually.
 4. To attend project meetings as required.
 5. To attend academic conferences and present papers at them.
 6. To undertake any other duties, commensurate with the grade, as directed by the Principal Investigator or Head of Department.