**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Research Associate: Speculative Woolgathering**

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| **Job Title:** Research Associate: Speculative Woolgathering | **Grade:** 6 |
| **Duration:** Fixed term for 6 months 0.4 FTE (14.6 hours per week)  |
| **Department/College:** Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts |
| **Directly responsible to:** Dr Naomi Jacobs (Lancaster Project Lead)  |
| **Supervisory responsibility for:** N/A |
| **Other contacts:*** **Internal:** Co-Lead Dr David Perez, colleagues and students in Imagination Lancaster, Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, other faculties, the Library, ISS, central administration, and other relevant university actors.
* **External:** Project Lead Dr Anabel Gutierrez at Royal Holloway University of London, and wider investigator team namely, Prof Louise Manning (University of Lincoln) and Dr Peter Craigon (Nottingham University. Additionally it is expected you would come in contact with representatives from the Digital Good Network, UKRI, professional bodies, employers, business organisations, local and UK government organisations, community groups, academic and research networks.
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| **Job purpose:**The post-holder will join the exciting interdisciplinary research project funded by the UKRI Economic and Social Research Council as part of the Digital Good Network, called ‘Speculative Woolgathering: Anticipatory Evaluation of Digital Good’. We are investigating possible futures of supply chains to consider digital sustainability scenarios in the textile and fashion industry, and how these can be evaluated. Specifically, we are using the UK wool industry as an example to demonstrate challenges in the supply chain to reimagining uses for currently undervalued, natural biodegradable materials. By creating potential futures and examining their ethical challenges and dimensions of ‘good’, we can understand responsible and sustainable innovation and expose the choices that factor into evaluating digital good.Key duties of the role include supporting the use of speculative design methods to help develop interactive research artefacts, the use of co-design methods to run workshops to understand the practical challenges faced by various wool supply chain stakeholders, and helping to run evaluation workshops with a variety of audiences. The post-holder will also contribute to framework development and the dissemination of research findings to stakeholders, publics and academia. |
| **Major Duties:*** To support a scoping review of existing literature and the current landscape of wool production to set the context for value addition through sustainable practices and technology.
* To use co-design and participatory design methods to conduct research with farmers, industry figures, project partners, partner institution academic staff and various other different communities and stakeholders to understand current challenges.
* To use practical design skills (e.g. graphic design, illustration, digital design and web development) to help create innovative and compelling design fiction prototypes and interactions.
* To support evaluation workshops conducted with stakeholders and collect qualitative research data.
* To analyse and synthesise qualitative/quantitative data through various methods/methodologies.
* To author/co-author high quality academic publications and reports based on the research for publication in peer-reviewed international conferences and journals (in accordance with the standards of the Research Excellence Framework).
* To work co-operatively and flexibly with colleagues in a team-based interdisciplinary environment and adhere to strict deadlines.
* To contribute to completion of project deliverables in an organised and timely manner.
* To organise and participate in project meetings with various partners which require the preparation and presentation of research progress reports and talks.
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