

Further particulars Reference A672

**Senior Research Associate, Lancaster University,
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, mobilities.lab**

Applications from outstanding individuals are invited for a new research post to shape socio-technical innovation in crisis response. The post is linked to the EU Integrated Project BRIDGE (<http://www.bridgeproject.eu/>), which commenced in April 2011.

Together with other researchers from different countries and different disciplines, you will develop and carry out a programme of qualitative studies of ethical, legal and social aspects of IT supported emergency management. You will study opportunities for socio-technical innovation, such as the mobilisation of collective intelligence through social media and crisis informatics, risks, such as transformations of privacy and creeping securitization, and challenges of making proactive law, or automating parts of essentially social practices of sense-making, collaboration and improvisation. This involves:

- **Enhancing scientific and public understanding** of ethical, legal and social aspects of mobilising disaster response through IT, using **qualitative empirical research** (e.g. mobile methods, video and multi-sited ethnography), focused on existing and emergent future practices. Relevant analytical orientations include: ethnomethodology, workplace studies, computer supported cooperative work (CSCW), mobilities research, science and technology studies (STS).
- **Informing socio-technical innovation and the design of novel technologies** for emergency management in collaboration with computer scientists, emergency response professionals, training practitioners, members of the public. Tasks will include requirements analysis, production of multi-media resources for designers, preparing materials for and organising collaborative analysis workshops with stakeholders and designers, experimental evaluation of prototypes.

The person appointed will be based in the mobilities.lab at Lancaster University.

The Bridge project (Bridging resources and agencies in large-scale emergency management), funded under the EU FP7 Security Theme, is one amongst several international efforts to support professionals and volunteers in mobilising information and resources for disaster response. Coordinated by SINTEF Norway, it brings together 14 academic and industrial organisations, including software developers, practitioners, and social scientists. Taking an ethnographically informed, iterative and experimental user-centred design approach, the team will develop socio-technical systems for multi-agency, cross-border disaster response that push the state of the art in information technology (IT) and professional and public practice. Fieldwork and experimental design scenarios focus on large scale multi-agency emergency response operations.

The post will commence on 1 April 2013 or as soon as possible thereafter and the level of appointment will be determined by experience and achievement.

Salary range: Research Associate (Grade 7) £31,798 - £35,788per annum.

Enquiries to Dr Monika Buscher, director mobilities.lab: m.buscher@lancaster.ac.uk

Background Information

The Bridge project

Bridge is an EU funded integrated project with 14 partners in seven countries, coordinated by SINTEF, Norway. Its key aim is to support interoperability, harmonization and cooperation

among stakeholders on a technical and organisational level. Technologically, Bridge seeks to develop:

- resilient ad-hoc network infrastructures
- middleware to support integration of data sources, networks and systems
- context management systems to foster interoperability and production of meaningful, reliable information
- model-based automated support systems and scenario-based training
- agent-based dynamic workflow composition and communication support
- adaptive, multi-modal user interfaces
- novel stationary and mobile interaction techniques
- visualization of ad-hoc networks and technology status

But while technical support is critical for multi-agency collaboration, innovation is socio-technical and relies on a deep understanding of social and material collaborative practices. The Bridge project combines technical innovation with qualitative social science research and user-centred requirements analysis through an iterative design process with close engagement of stakeholders.

Monika Büscher, director of mobilities.lab, leads social science research in the Bridge project through Workpackage 12: Social, Legal and Ethical Issues. The work in this workpackage brings together a core team including: the person to be appointed, Peter Wahlgren - IT law (Stockholm University), and Monika Büscher – IT Ethics and social science informed collaborative socio-technical innovation. Wider collaboration will involve the whole of the Bridge project team. Particularly close links exist with Andreas Zimmermann and Leonardo Ramirez at the Fraunhofer Institute in Bonn, Germany, who are leading Workpackage 2: Domain Analyses (see also <http://things.fit.fraunhofer.de/> and http://www.fit.fraunhofer.de/projects/mobiles-wissen/hydra_en.html).

For further details please view: <http://www.bridgeproject.eu/>

Department of Sociology

The Department of Sociology has a strong tradition of interdisciplinary, collaborative research. Current members have intellectual backgrounds in sociology, economics, politics, social anthropology, media and cultural studies, film studies, feminist theory, ethnomethodology, mobilities research and science and technology studies, and most have extensive interdisciplinary links across the University and internationally.

Major research centres include:

- Centre for Science Studies (CSS)
- Centre for the Study of Environmental Change (CSEC)
- CeMoRe (Centre for Mobilities Research)
- Centre for Gender and Women's Studies (GWS)
- Cultural Political Economy Research Centre (CPERC)
- ESRC Centre for Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics (CESAGen)
- UNESCO Chair in Gender Research

The Department has been assessed by the UK's official Research Assessment Exercise as being in the top 5 group of Departments for the quality of its sociological research with 85% of our submission 'internationally significant'. It is highly rated in teaching quality assessments.

The Department co-operates closely with a number of Institutes in the Faculty, particularly the Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts, and, outside the Faculty, the Lancaster Environment Centre and Infolab.

The Sociology Department offers the major degree, BA Sociology, and combined BA degrees: Sociology with Criminology, Educational Studies, Geography, Philosophy, Politics, Religious Studies, Film, and Organisation, Work & Technology.

We convene or contribute to several degrees at the MA level:

- MA in Sociology
- MA in Science and Technology
- MA in Sociological Research
- MA in Tourism and Travel
- MA in Environment, Culture and Society
- MA in Genomics, Culture and Society

There are currently over 70 part-time and full-time research students (MPhil and PhD) in the Department who participate in the research events as well as in the undergraduate teaching programmes, and organise an annual Sociology summer conference. The Department also has a substantial number of visiting post-doctoral scholars and research fellows.

For further details please view: <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fss/sociology>

Centre for Mobilities Research

Mobilities - a new interdisciplinary field of research partly initiated at Lancaster and established by CeMoRe in 2003 - encompasses the analysis of the global, national and local movements of people, objects, capital, information and material things combining together to engender the economic and social patterning of life.

For further information, please see: <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/centres/cemore/>

Mobilities Lab

Lancaster University's success is, in no small part, due to the interdisciplinary, engaged and public nature of its research. The mobilities.lab brings together researchers, and provides space and resources for innovative mobile research methods and collaborative analysis. The lab is engaged in a number of projects and research and innovation initiatives around physical, mediated and virtual mobilities in contemporary societies. It builds on work undertaken by the Lancaster Computer Supported Cooperative Work Research Centre and the Centre for Mobilities Research (Sociology), the Centre for Science Studies (Sociology), Imagination Lancaster (Institute for Contemporary Art), Infolab (Computing) and the Lancaster Environment Centre. The lab is a hub for interdisciplinary collaboration and R&D with academic, public and industrial partners (e.g. Oxford University, Aarhus University, SINTEF Norway, the UK Foresight programme, Saab, Thales). It includes collaborations with professionals in emergency response in the UK, Denmark, Sweden, Germany and Austria through the PalCom and Bridge projects, and the 2011-12 'Communicating Disasters' research programme at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF) Bielefeld, Germany. Mobilities.lab brings together researchers undertaking experimental, mobile social science research, enabling new insight and methodological innovation for understanding and changing contemporary ways of mobile living and working.

For further details please view: <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/centres/cemore/>

Staff development

Staff in the department benefit from Lancaster's strong commitment at institutional and departmental level to the provision of an environment that encourages and supports research. The Department of Sociology has a friendly, co-operative ethos that promotes collaborative working and the sharing of research experiences.

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

As the largest Faculty at Lancaster University, we bring together 10 departments and associated research centres in a diverse staff and student community of 4200 undergraduates and 875 postgraduates. FASS has an international reputation for research excellence. In the 2008 RAE at least 85% of research activity in most of the Faculty's departments was of an international standard. We have a particular reputation at Lancaster for interdisciplinarity and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is committed to promoting and encouraging collaborations across departments and across faculties, and supports engaged research collaborations with public and commercial partners.

For further details please view: <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/faculty/index.htm>

Lancaster University

Lancaster University is approaching its 50th anniversary with a world-class reputation as a centre for excellence in teaching, scholarship and research. It is ranked in the top one percent of universities in the world, listed at 145 in the 2012-13 Times Higher Education international table and 163 in the 2012 QS World University Rankings. The growing reputation of Lancaster is reflected by high rankings year on year in each of the UK's major university league tables - The Times (12th), the Guardian (7th) and the Complete University Guide (9th).

The University is set near to the Lune Valley and the Forest of Bowland – areas of outstanding natural beauty – and on the edge of the Lake District. £50m has been invested into the estate since 2002, transforming the campus. Key developments include: new academic centres of excellence, student social facilities, improved teaching spaces and one of the largest student residences projects in the UK. The campus is located a short distance from the vibrant and historic city of Lancaster, which has excellent schools. Lancaster is easily accessible by road (M6 Junction 33) and rail (west coast mainline). It is approximately an hour to Manchester International Airport, and about 2.5 hours by train to London.