JOB DESCRIPTION
Research Associate, Flexibility project/Department of Sociology
Vacancy Ref: A3347

Job Title: Senior Research Associate, Department of Sociology
Present Grade: 7

Department/College: Department of Sociology

Duration: 50% time until 31/03/2023

Directly responsible to: Dr Stanley Blue and Professor Elizabeth Shove

Supervisory responsibility for: N/A

Other contacts

Contacts:

Internal: Colleagues in the Sociology Department and in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, together with colleagues in other faculties, the Library, ISS, central administration, conference office, finance and other relevant parts of the university.

External: Colleagues working in the Flexibility Theme and in the UK Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions (CREDS); professionals in the energy sector and other non-academic organisations as required.

Major Duties:

To contribute to research into the ‘flexibility’ of energy systems and to disseminate and promote that work through selected academic and non-academic networks.

The post is based in the Sociology Department at Lancaster University and is part of work of the Flexibility theme in the the Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions (CREDS). (For more information on the work of the Flexibility theme, see: http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/flexibility/)

The successful applicant will work with the theme and project teams to investigate and explore current research and policy regarding the future flexibility of energy systems and to identify current concerns and priorities in that field. This research will inform a series of writing projects (academic, non-academic, and in a range of formats), combining new and existing research, focused on industry-relevant messages and insights. The successful applicant will take the lead in developing sociologically informed, carefully crafted outputs. Along with academic journal output (to which the applicant would contribute), these are likely to include an online “gallery” – presenting aspects of seasonal and daily variation and exploring their significance for professional and public audiences. The work will also involve contributing to the theme’s current programme of events and designing others (online and later in person) for specific audiences (e.g. ofgem, the Association for Decentralised Energy, BEIS).

The successful applicant will:

- Work alongside the theme leads to undertake research on the future of energy systems and the place of flexibility with that.
- Use that research to inform academic writing and to help design a programme of related publication/dissemination to maximise the impact of key messages coming out of the Flexibility programme as a whole.
- Prepare and produce high quality academic and non-academic outputs that challenge and develop practical and theoretical understanding of flexibility in energy systems and of how and why it changes.
- Contribute to the national and international research reputation of the Department and University more widely;
• Work within the strategic direction of the University as a whole and the University’s code of ethics and practice guidelines;

• Undertake other appropriate duties as required by Dr Stanley Blue and Professor Elizabeth Shove.