

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Research Associate**

**Vacancy Ref: 0587-22**

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| **Job Title:** Research Associate | **Grade:** 6 |
| **Department/College:** Lancaster Environment Centre |
| **Directly responsible to:** Dr Sally Cawood, Principal Investigator |
| **Supervisory responsibility for:** N/A |
| **Other contacts:** **Internal:**Project mentors (Prof Frances Cleaver, Dr Manoj Roy), human geography and administrative colleagues within LEC |
| **External:**  Research partners in Bangladesh and other project stakeholders (academics, activists, development practitioners and policy advocates), including members of the International Project Advisory Board |
| In Bangladesh, and across South Asia, sanitary workers continue to manually handle human faeces on streets, in drains, pit latrines, sewers and septic tanks. Whilst such ‘dirty work’ provides essential income, it also frequently leads to illness, injury and death. Hazardous labour practices persist despite technological, legal and policy interventions, and the histories and priorities of sanitation workers, many of whom are from low-caste, class, ethnic or religious backgrounds, remain underexplored. This project seeks to address this oversight, with attention given to the colonial legacies and contemporary realities of manual scavenging in Bangladesh. The project will address four main research questions: 1. What are the historical origins of manual scavenging in Bangladesh, and to what extent has British colonial rule (over labour migration, urban infrastructure and administration) affected the lives and livelihoods of manual scavengers in the country, and across South Asia today?
2. What impacts (positive, negative, unintended) have contemporary infrastructural and technological shifts in urban sanitation, including government and non-government organisation (NGO) interventions, had on the lives and livelihoods of manual scavengers in Bangladesh?
3. How do manual scavengers in Bangladesh perceive ‘dirty work’ historically and today, and what actions are younger and older generations taking to improve the work or seek alternatives?
4. What new concepts and theorisations can be generated and integrated into academia, policy and practice to nuance our understanding of persistent hazardous labour in evolving urban systems, and re-centre debate onto the priorities of workers, their families and communities?

The successful candidate will contribute directly to addressing research questions 1 and 4 in **Work Packages 1 and 2**. The PDRA will work closely with the PI from project inception, to deliver core outputs under these Work Packages (outlined below under ‘Major Duties’). **Please note:** Travel to India and Bangladesh for data collection will be necessary for this role.**Major Duties:**1. Under the direction of, and in collaboration with Dr Cawood, undertake research (review global, regional and country-specific literature on manual scavenging and handling of human waste; collect, analyse and catalogue archival and primary interview data; contribute to collaborative academic outputs and provide intellectual leadership on selected academic outputs. This includes, for example; a project website/learning hub, inception blog, conceptual and methodology paper, ‘terminology toolkit’, archival repository on manual scavenging and an inventory of projects supporting sanitary workers in Bangladesh.
2. Assist in the preparation and submission of ethics application documents for review and approval.
3. Liaise and coordinate with project partners in Bangladesh and the International Advisory Group to plan (online and offline/face-to-face) inception and regular project meetings and activities.
4. Travel within the UK, and to India and Bangladesh to assist with archival data collection, project inception meetings/workshops and key informant interviews.
5. In consultation with Dr. Cawood, identify opportunities for your professional development (e.g. supported leadership on outputs, formal training courses, funded fellowships) and actively engage with identified opportunities to enhance your research skills and CV. The successful candidate will have 20% of their time allocated for this purpose.
6. In collaboration with Dr. Cawood, support the formation of an Early Career Researcher (ECR) network on hazardous (sanitation) labour, including a 1-day workshop in Lancaster.
7. Draft and submit panel proposals and/or paper abstracts to UK based conferences (for example, BASAS or SanCoP), and, if accepted, present project work at the conference.
8. Actively participate in writing academic articles of high quality for submission to top social science/humanities journals.
9. Contribute to the national and international reputation of the project.
10. Contribute to organisation and archiving of project data (data management).
11. Manage own time and ensure agreed project milestones/ deliverables are met.
12. Work within the University’s code of ethics and practice guidelines.
13. Participate in and contribute more broadly to the research life and work of the Lancaster Environment Centre.
14. Any other duties, commensurate with the grade of the post.
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