

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (ISC)
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE (Ref: HUM/91249)

1. The University invites applications for a half-time Research Associate which is tenable for a period of 36 months from 1 February 2010 – 31 January 2013.
2. Salary for Research Associate (grade 6, spine point 31) £30,595 per annum pro rata 0.50 fte.
3. Informal inquiries may be made to Rachel Gibson, via e-mail to rachel.gibson@manchester.ac.uk.
4. Application forms, including a full CV, and the names of referees should be returned by 27 November 2009 to:

Jennifer Birchall
Institute for Social Change
Arthur Lewis Building
University of Manchester
Oxford Rd
Manchester M13 9PL

Email: Jennifer.Birchall@manchester.ac.uk

Please note that references and/or testimonials should not be submitted with application forms of CVs, or be submitted on behalf of a candidate. The recruitment panel will only consider nominated referees obtained by the University.

5. Interviews will be held week commencing 14 December 2009.
6. If you have not been contacted by 18 December 2009 you should assume that, on this occasion, your application has not been successful. We would, however, like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in the University of Manchester.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE DIRECTORATE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

Job Title: Research Associate (HUM/91249)

Reports To: Rachel Gibson

Organisation Unit: Institute for Social Change (ISC)

Date: Feb 1 2010 – Jan 31 2013

The Institute for Social Change (ISC) at the University of Manchester is an interdisciplinary social science research institute dedicated to furthering our understanding of the causes and consequences of social change. ISC is host to 'Social Change, a Harvard-Manchester initiative' (SCHMi), a collaborative research programme that conducts US-UK studies of social change in the areas of immigration, social inequality, religion and the changing workplace. The core mission of the Institute and the collaboration is development of the quantitative and empirically grounded study of social change using innovative and advanced methods. We seek to deepen our understanding of the ways in which the social and political life of a population changes in response to major socio-economic, demographic and political developments. As an interdisciplinary research centre, bringing a wide range of perspectives to bear on our work. We use primary and secondary data sources to conduct theory-informed, empirically-rigorous and policy-relevant research in a comparative perspective.

Current ISC members have a wide breadth of expertise in issues related to social change, both substantive and methodological. Substantive areas mainly focus on the values and behaviour of the population in modern democracies, especially the UK, Europe and the US, although research into issues surrounding migration and international population flows extend our interests to emerging economies. Specific interests include:

- Political engagement
- Electoral behaviour
- Social mobility and social stratification
- Social capital
- Educational and occupational participation and attainment
- Ethnicity, Immigration and Migration: incorporation and impact
- Religious change
- Political and social implications of new media technologies
- Causes and consequences of inequalities in population health and aging.

Job Description

The Research Associate will be working under the guidance of Rachel Gibson on an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded project 'The Internet, Electoral Politics and Citizen Participation in Global Perspective'. This is a three year programme of research designed to find out how political participation and campaigning around the world is being reshaped and even transformed by citizens and parties' use of new media in elections. It will examine the adoption of new user-driven web 2.0 tools across a range of countries, focusing particularly on parliamentary elections in the UK, Australia (2010)

and Presidential elections in the U.S. and France (2012). The research will utilize a range of standard social science methodologies including national opinion surveys, elite interviews and questionnaires and compile a range of secondary data sources (census, socioeconomic statistics, surveys) for comparative analysis. In addition the project aims to be methodologically innovative in utilizing a range of new web-based tools (e.g. tubekit, tubemogul, *Infoscape Lab* blogometer) to investigate the use of blogs, social networking and video sharing sites by voters and political elites.

The project is divided into three phases each of which lasts one year. Phase 1 will focus on data collection and analysis of the UK and Australian elections and the wider cross-national analysis; Phase 2 will focus on the methodological questions raised by political uses of web 2.0 technologies and providing a basic user guide for those unfamiliar with the applications to start using these new tools in their analyses. Phase 3 will focus on data collection and analysis of the U.S. and French elections and on drawing together the wider conclusions of the project as well as the lodging of all data outputs with the ESDS. A website and blog will be established and regularly updated throughout the project to promote the findings and engage in debate with the wider user community.

The researcher will offer support to the whole project. This will include practical assistance to liaise with external service providers (survey companies, Archive-it) arrange interviews, coordinate the workshops and final conference. A major responsibility for the post holder will cover the data collection and management elements of the project. Specifically for data collection - site archiving and content coding, mass and elite survey development and implementation, elite interviews, secondary statistical sources; data analysis - quantitative and qualitative methods using statistically assisted software (SPSS, atlas ti); data archiving. Creative and technical support will be required for the development of the website/blog maintenance and establishment. Finally, the RA will be directly involved in the writing and implementing the research dissemination plans of the project.

Detailed tasks of the research include:

- Undertake statistical and data analysis to evaluate the results of the four national surveys.
- Establishment and maintenance of web archive collections covering four national elections.
- Collect original and secondary aggregate and survey data for cross-national analysis.
- Preparation of academic papers and attendance at conferences to present findings.
- Assist with design and arranging for conducting of public opinion surveys
- Assist with elite interviews of UK and French e-campaign managers and transcription.
- Development and maintenance of project website and blog to host key findings, links and engage with user groups/wider interested public.

- Arrange conference and interview travel, and dissemination plans, i.e. organizing the conference, workshops, and managing the project website/blog.

Person Specification

Essential Knowledge, Skills & Experience:

It is essential that the individual appointed should have:

- A background in data analysis/statistics within applied social science
- A PhD or be nearing completion of one in a social science discipline or equivalent background
- Experience with data collection and analysis and a working knowledge of software such as SPSS, Excel and Stata
- Some experience of multivariate data analysis, such as regression
- Some experience in establishing/maintaining websites and blogs
- Excellent organizational skills
- Experience of writing reports
- French language

In addition to the above, an appointment to Research Associate for this project would require the applicant to have:

- Proven research experience, such as working as a research assistant on a funded project
- Experience in working with and developing opinion surveys

It is desirable for appointment to Research Associate post that the individual appointed should have:

- An interest in e-politics, and particularly the areas of campaigning, elections and participation. experience in using software for textual analysis (e.g. Nvivo, atlas ti) and social network analysis (e.g. UCINET)
- Conducted elite interviews
- Experience in transcription of interview data

Circulation:
Professor Rachel Gibson
Manchester.ac.uk
Jobs.ac.uk
File

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE**

**Research Associate (Part-time 0.5 FTE)
(Ref: HUM/91249)**

Salary: £30,595 (Grade 6) per annum (pro rata 0.50 fte)

Required to work on the project "The Internet, Electoral Politics and Citizen Participation in Global Perspective", funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The project will explore the impact of new media technologies on political participation and election campaigning across a range of countries by citizens and parties' use of new media in elections. Particular attention will be paid to forthcoming parliamentary elections in the UK, Australia (2010) and Presidential elections in the U.S. and France (2012). Use will be made of standard social science methodologies (national opinion surveys, elite interviews, compilation of secondary data sources) and new web-based tools to investigate the use of blogs, social networking and video sharing sites by voters, parties and candidates. The post-holder will assist in conducting and coordinating the fieldwork, organizing project workshops/conference, a project website and contribute to data analysis and publications.

Applicants should have a PhD, or one near completion in a relevant social sciences discipline (preferably political science or sociology), some experience in working on funded research projects and survey research and design. You will also have proven ability of data management and analysis, knowledge and experience of working with SPSS or equivalent statistical packages, and a good working knowledge of French.

This position is tenable from 1 February 2010 for 36 months and is part-time (50% fte).

For informal enquiries email rachel.gibson@manchester.ac.uk.

Closing date: Tuesday 27 November 2009. Please quote reference number HUM/91249.

Interviews will be held during the week commencing 14 December 2009.

The University will actively foster a culture of inclusion and diversity and will seek to achieve true equality of opportunity for all members of its community.

NB:

[delete as applicable – do not include on Invoice, Unilife or Staff Vacancy copies or on the web folder version]

- (1)** *Will you not enter any undertaking with the candidate regarding salary without having first agreed these with the Human Resources Office. Only the Human Resource Managers are authorised to offer employment to the successful candidate and you should do no more than indicate to the successful candidate that you are recommending their appointment.*
- (2)** *It is essential that you inform your Faculty HR Manager of the names of individuals involved in the shortlisting and interview processes **before** shortlisting takes place. You should also confirm that they have attended a TEDI or Recruitment and Selection course at The University of Manchester. The University Council requires that anyone involved should have received appropriate training. In the event that you wish to involve an external representative in the process, you should discuss with your Faculty HR Manager the arrangements for familiarising him/her with the University's policy and practice in recruitment and selection.*

(3)

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

DIRECTORATE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Departments to complete this form prior to shortlisting and interview.

JOB REFERENCE NUMBER:	
JOB TITLE:	
DEPARTMENT:	
CLOSING DATE:	
INTERVIEW DATE (If known):	

Details of individuals to be involved in the recruitment and selection process (i.e shortlisting and interviewing).

	Tick relevant course attended Either/Or			
NAME	Shortlisting		Interviewing	
	TEDI	R&S	TEDI	R&S

Forms should be sent to the Resource Centre Human Resources Assistants.

* Must be attendance of the University of Manchester's Training in Equality and Diversity Issues course (TEDI) or the Recruitment and Selection course (R&S).

Completed by:

Date:

Contact Number: