

## THE POST

**College:** College of Medicine and Health  
**Post:** Postdoctoral Research Associate  
**Reference No:** P71695  
**Grade:** E (sp26)  
**HERA:** ARF

**Reporting To:**

**Responsible For:**

The above full time fixed-term post is available in the College of Medicine & Health in Truro, Cornwall, from 1 April 2020 for 12.5 months. Part time or job share arrangements will be considered.

### Job Description

#### Main purpose of the job:

The European Centre for Environment and Human Health ([www.ecehh.org](http://www.ecehh.org)) of the University of Exeter Medical School is seeking to recruit a Postdoctoral Research Associate for the Global Challenges Research Fund project Transdisciplinary Data Assemblages (a follow up project of the Caribbean Foodscapes project (<https://caribbeanfoodscapes.com/>) in which we investigated the historical development of Kingston's foodscapes. For this Arts and Humanities Research Council funded post, the successful applicant will have a PhD in History or a related discipline such as anthropology, historical sociology or geography, digital humanities etc. You should be able to clearly demonstrate knowledge and understanding in historical research techniques (quantitative and qualitative data sources) and the proven ability to undertake historical analysis at a high level. It is desirable that you also have knowledge of health, nutrition or food systems. We particularly encourage candidates with experience in the Caribbean to apply.

The successful applicant will lead on highly innovative work to develop methods for a "transdisciplinary data assemblage". This will involve developing processes to systematically identify, appraise and assemble meaningful data sources (ranging from digital newspaper accounts to annual reports of the Ministry of Health, nutrition and health surveys and commercial, agricultural and land use data) for the historical evolution of Jamaica's food system from the Second World War to today. This will be made available to a range of national (Jamaican), regional and international stakeholders from research, policy and practice as an online "data assemblage index" that signposts and explains meaningful data linkages or assemblages and their uses. The usefulness of our method of transdisciplinary assemblages will finally be tested with critical stakeholders by using the index to co-design worked examples and strategies, such as building a business case for communal urban gardens. Depending on the background and interests of the candidate, this work could also focus on other Caribbean settings. The applicant will be primarily working with Dr Cornelia Guell, and liaising extensively with other members of the project at the University of Exeter, the University of York and Cambridge and the University of the West Indies, Mona Jamaica and the University of Technology, Jamaica.

#### Main duties and accountabilities:

1. To undertake interdisciplinary historical research, including:
  - Planning and developing a research plan for joint interdisciplinary research using new research techniques and methods;
  - Making presentations at national and international conferences and similar events;

- Dealing with problems which may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines;
  - Analysing and interpreting the results of own research and generating original ideas based on outcomes;
  - Using new research techniques and methods;
  - Using initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, developing new research methods and extending the research portfolio as appropriate for the project;
  - Using initiative and creativity to engage with stakeholders;
  - Analysing and interpreting the results of independently-carried out research and generating original ideas based on outcomes;
  - Dealing with problems which may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines.
2. To contribute to teaching and to be involved in the assessment of student knowledge including assisting in the supervision of student projects and in the development of student research skills.
  3. To work in collaboration with colleagues as appropriate to the field of study including:
    - Working in collaboration with colleagues from a variety of fields and disciplines, and contributing to collaborative decision making within the research group;
    - Contributing to the production of collaborative research reports and publications.
    - Preparing papers and presenting information on research progress and outcomes to bodies supervising research, e.g. steering groups.
  4. To communicate complex information, orally, in writing and electronically, including:
    - Producing collaborative research outputs for academic publications and evidence briefs, developing a website for research outputs, and making presentations at national and international conferences and similar events;
    - Contributing to the public understanding of research and scholarship.
  5. To prepare proposals and applications to external bodies, e.g. for funding and contractual purposes
  6. To contribute to the planning of research projects.
  7. To use research resources, laboratories and workshops as appropriate and to take responsibility for reducing hazards and for the health and safety of others. Where appropriate, will also be responsible for conducting risk assessments.
  8. To monitor research budgets as appropriate.
  9. To play an active role in the European Centre for Environment and Human Health.
  10. To engage in continuous professional development and to be responsible for continually updating knowledge and understanding in field of study or specialism and for developing skills.

This job description summarises the main duties and accountabilities of the post and is not comprehensive: the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties of similar level and responsibility. Please visit the Human Resources website to view the Research Fellow role profiles.

### **Person Specification**

<b>Competency</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Attainments/Qualifications	PhD (or nearing completion) in History or equivalent qualification/experience in a related discipline such as Anthropology, Historical Sociology or Geography, Digital Humanities etc.	Caribbean geographical focus of PhD.  Food, food systems or health as subject of PhD.
Skills and Understanding	Detailed knowledge and understanding of a range of historical research techniques and	Ability and willingness to work across traditional disciplinary boundaries between the natural

	<p>a range of (quantitative and qualitative) data sources including archives, reports and research data.</p> <p>Ability to develop research objectives, projects and proposals for own and joint research, with the assistance of a mentor if required.</p> <p>Highly developed communication skills to engage effectively with a wide ranging audience, both orally and in writing, using a range of media.</p>	<p>sciences, social sciences, and humanities</p>
Prior Experience	<p>Evidence of research activity using range of historical research techniques and types of sources.</p> <p>Published research.</p> <p>Understanding of health and safety legislation.</p>	<p>Experience living, studying or working in the Caribbean.</p> <p>Published research in high profile journals and for interdisciplinary audience.</p> <p>Collaborative, interdisciplinary research experience.</p> <p>Experience with engaged research and dissemination.</p> <p>Experience in curating project website.</p>
Behavioural Characteristics	<p>Ability to liaise effectively with research collaborators and partners outside academia at a high level.</p> <p>Ability to plan and prioritise own work in order to meet deadlines, including using initiative to plan research activities and schedules.</p> <p>Ability to work as part of a team and also to work independently using own initiative.</p> <p>Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks for the exchange of information and collaboration.</p> <p>Attention to detail and commitment to high quality research.</p> <p>Active participation as a member of a research team.</p> <p>Engagement in continuous professional development.</p> <p>Understand equal opportunity</p>	

	<p>issues as they may impact on areas of research content Where appropriate to the role, willingness to undergo training in order to conduct risk assessments</p> <p>An understanding of the importance of equality and diversity within an organisation and a commitment to helping create an inclusive culture.</p>	
Circumstances	Willingness to work flexibly and travel to achieve project demands	Willingness to spend some time in Jamaica or other Caribbean settings.

### **Informal Enquiries**

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting Dr Cornelia Guell, Senior Lecturer, [c.guell@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:c.guell@exeter.ac.uk) or +44 1872 25 8138.

### **Terms & Conditions**

Our Terms and Conditions of Employment can be viewed [here](#).

### **Further Information**

Please see our [website](#) for further information on working at the University of Exeter.