

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION INFORMATION

POSITION TITLE:	Postdoctoral Research Fellow
WORK AREA POSITION CODE:	<i>(To be allocated by Human Resources)</i>
FUNCTIONAL UNIT:	Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry
ORGANISATIONAL UNIT:	Faculty of Theology and Philosophy
CAMPUS:	St Patrick's campus, Melbourne
NOMINATED SUPERVISOR (TITLE):	Professor of Sociology of Religion
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION:	Academic Level B
EMPLOYMENT TYPE	Five year fixed term contract, full-time A period of probation may be attached to this position.
REMUNERATION & BENEFITS:	A range of generous conditions of employment and entitlements are provided to staff. Some of these include: generous leave conditions; flexible working conditions; comprehensive Staff Development Programs; salary packaging benefits as a rebateable employer; reward and recognition programs.
SUPERANNUATION:	The University will contribute an amount equivalent to 9.25% or 17% of your gross annual salary to superannuation dependant on salary level, length of appointment or age.
DATE DEVELOPED/ REVIEWED	2 April 2014

BACKGROUND – AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Australian Catholic University (ACU) is a publicly funded university and welcomes students and staff of all beliefs. It is committed to a strong Catholic ethos and seeks to foster and promote teaching and learning, research and scholarship, and community engagement in the Christian tradition.

ACU represents the accumulated achievements of 150 years of Catholic tertiary education. ACU opened in January 1991 following the amalgamation of four Catholic tertiary institutions in eastern Australia. As a young university, building our research fields to a position of genuine achievement in selected areas of strength and significant potential more widely is an ongoing ambition. The University chooses to focus on areas of teaching and research that are closely connected with its particular character as a University that is Catholic, and that is public and national. The focus areas are Theology and Philosophy, Health, Education and, the Common Good and Social Justice.

Not only is ACU the fastest growing university in Australia, it is now the largest Catholic university in the English-speaking world. The University has approximately 26,000 students and over 1,800 staff.

ACU is Australia's only university with a national dimension with seven campuses, St Patrick's in Melbourne, Aquinas in Ballarat, Mount Saint Mary at Strathfield, MacKillop in North Sydney, McAuley in Brisbane, Signadou in Canberra and Adelaide. The Vice-Chancellor's Office is located in North Sydney.

The structure to support this complex and national University consists of:

- Provost
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor Students, Learning and Teaching
- Chief Operating Officer

Each portfolio consists of a number of Schools, Directorates or Institutes;

- Five Associate-Vice-Chancellors or Campus Deans that focus on the University's local presence and development of the University at the local 'campus' level; and
- A Directorate of Identity and Mission that drives both the Identity and the [Mission](#) of the University and includes a number of Institutes and Directorates.

For further information about ACU and working with us visit our website at www.acu.edu.au.

ABOUT THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY

The Faculty of Theology and Philosophy came into existence from 1 January 2009 and is one of four faculties at ACU. The Faculty is comprised of two national schools, the School of Theology and the School of Philosophy, as well as the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry.

The Faculty offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses and higher degree research studies across six campuses and is a leader in the flexible delivery of teaching. The Faculty, and in particular Theology, has a strong research output, achieving an Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) score of 4 (above world average) in the 2010 report.

The Faculty has 66 academic staff, 21 professional staff and 58 honorary appointments.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR RELIGION AND CRITICAL ENQUIRY

The institute, first and foremost a research organization, sets its sights on the highest standards of intellectual work, seeking creativity, collaboration and originality as well as rigor and thoroughness in its scholarship at an international level. The Institute engages with key historical and contemporary questions about the dimensions of faith, religiosity and social and political practice.

The institute is comprised of accomplished scholars of national and international note across an array of areas including:

- Biblical and Early Christian Studies;
- Catholic Thought and Practice, including Inter-religious dialogue;
- Moral Philosophy and Applied Ethics;
- Philosophy and Phenomenology of Religion; and
- Religion, Politics and Society.

The Institute, in its independence to undertake scholarly work and ambition to address pressing questions is in keeping with the best attributes of the Catholic intellectual tradition.

POSITION PURPOSE

The postdoctoral research fellow will contribute to enhancing the profile of research of the Centre for Religion and Society within the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry. In particular, the fellow will contribute to an empirically-grounded research project examining the issue of religious/communal violence and conflict in contemporary India under the direction of Professor Bryan Turner and Associate Professor Irfan Ahmad.

The position involves completing a four-year fieldwork-based project which investigates the subject of communal/religious violence in contemporary India focusing on why acts of violence occur and the roles of diverse players – e.g., political parties, various other actors in the civil society, different layers of the administration, community leaders/organizations, media, or/and ideologies, – in the enactment of that violence. A particular focus of the project will be an examination of “Hindu-Muslim” violence from a fresh framework, including taking into account the experiences of other religious traditions in India.

In addition the fellow will contribute to the research life of the Institute through participation in and presentation of seminars, attending conferences to disseminate the outcomes of the project, and to assist in other research related activities where possible e.g. co-supervision of research students.

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities include to:

1. Conduct high level research in the empirically-grounded research project examining the issue of religious/communal violence and conflict in contemporary India;
2. Produce high level publications as sole author and in collaboration with team members, to be published in highly ranked international journals and to contribute to any other publications stemming from the project;
3. Collaborate with the research team in all facets of the research project from literature reviews to gaining ethics clearances, conducting fieldwork and data analysis;
4. Provide administrative support for the *Journal of Religious and Political Practice*;
5. Prepare and submit research grant applications and actively identify and seek funding from external bodies in consultation with Professor Turner and other members of the team;
6. Contribute to the research supervision of higher degree research students either as a principal or co-supervisor, depending on experience;
7. Actively contribute to the intellectual life of the Institute, the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy, and the University.
8. Other duties as required appropriate to the level of appointment.

SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

The successful candidate will have the following:

Essential:

1. Successful completion of a PhD or equivalent within the preceding eight years in sociology, social-cultural anthropology, political science, or religious studies relating to modern India/south Asia;
2. A track record in conducting fieldwork-based research, especially of a sociological or anthropological nature;
3. Research achievement, relative to opportunity, of high quality peer reviewed publications in the area of sociology, social-cultural anthropology, political science, or religious studies;
4. Competency in the language(s) relevant to the project proposal (see the position purpose above);
5. Excellent administrative skills, especially in terms of being able to meet strict deadlines;
6. Excellent communication skills and the ability to work effectively as part of a research team and independently on designated tasks;
7. Willingness to contribute to the daily life of the Institute through active involvement in seminars, conferences and new initiatives;
8. Awareness of the University's Mission and Catholic ethos and demonstrate an understanding of how this role serves the Mission;
9. Commitment to cultural diversity and ethical practice principles, and demonstrate knowledge of equal employment opportunity and workplace health and safety, appropriate to the level of the appointment.

Desired:

1. Experience relating to writing for a more general government, media and public audience;
2. Grant and application writing experience.

Shortlisted candidates are required to submit further:

- An 8-10 page research proposal.
- Two samples of academic writing.