

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title:	Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Digital Human Rights
Organisation Unit:	Centre for Policy Futures
Position Number:	NEW
Type of Employment:	Full-time, Fixed Term 3 Years
Classification:	Research Academic Level A

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

The University of Queensland (UQ) contributes positively to society by engaging in the creation, preservation, transfer and application of knowledge. UQ helps shape the future by bringing together and developing leaders in their fields to inspire the next generation and to advance ideas that benefit the world. UQ strives for the personal and professional success of its students, staff and alumni. For more than a century, we have educated and worked with outstanding people to deliver **knowledge leadership for a better world**.

UQ ranks in the world's top universities, as measured by several key independent ranking, including the Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities (43), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (45), QS World University Rankings (48), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (69). UQ again topped the nation in the prestigious Nature Index, and our Academic Ranking of World Universities result in the field of Life and Agricultural Sciences is the highest in Australia at 20.

UQ has an outstanding reputation for the quality of its teachers, its educational programs and employment outcomes for its students. Our students remain at the heart of what we do. The UQ experience – the UQ Advantage – is distinguished by a research enriched curriculum, international collaborations, industry engagement and opportunities that nurture and develop future leaders. UQ has a strong focus on teaching excellence, winning more national teaching excellence awards than any other in the country and attracting the majority of Queensland's highest academic achievers, as well as top interstate and overseas students.

UQ is one of Australia's Group of Eight, a charter member of edX and a founding member of Universitas 21, an international consortium of leading research-intensive universities.

Our 50,000-plus strong student community includes more than 13,000 postgraduate scholars and more than 12,000 international students from 144 countries, adding to its proud 240,000-plus alumni. The University has about 7,000 academic and professional staff and a \$1.8 billion annual operating budget. Its major campuses are at St Lucia, Gatton and Herston, in addition to teaching and research sites around Queensland and Brisbane city. The University has six Faculties and four University-level Institutes. The Institutes, funded by government and industry grants, philanthropy and commercialisation activities, have built scale and focus in research areas in neuroscience, biomolecular and biomedical sciences,

sustainable minerals, bioengineering and nanotechnology, as well as social science research.

UQ has an outstanding track-record in commercialisation of our innovation with major technologies employed across the globe and integral to gross product sales of \$11billion+ (see <http://uniquet.com.au/our-track-record>).

UQ has a rapidly growing record of attracting philanthropic support for its activities and this will be a strategic focus going forward.

Organisational Environment

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) is a large comprehensive Faculty with a broad academic profile and substantial research achievements. The Faculty Office is based at the St Lucia campus in the iconic Forgan Smith building adjacent to the Great Court of the University. The Executive Dean of the Faculty is Professor Heather Zwicker.

The Faculty comprises seven Schools (Communication & Arts; Education; Historical & Philosophical Inquiry; Languages & Cultures; Music; Political Science & International Studies; Social Science), two research Institutes (Institute for Social Science Research; Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities), two museums (Anthropology Museum and the RD Milns Antiquities Museum), a new Faculty Centre for Policy Futures, and several school-based research centres. The Faculty is also host to the Institute for Modern Languages and the Confucius Institute. The Faculty offers a broad range of programs to a large cohort of international and domestic students, with 850 research higher degree students, approximately 1,500 students in postgraduate coursework degrees and close to 8,000 undergraduates.

There are over 300 academic staff across the Faculty, making it one of the largest in Australia. One indicator of the Faculty's standing in the disciplines that we research is membership in the learned academies, where UQ can proudly claim 33 members of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and 50 members of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

Teaching in the Faculty is underpinned by substantial research performance and several specialized fields of research were judged at the highest level (5 ranking) in the 2015 Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) round. These fields include Specialist Studies in Education; Political Science; Cultural Studies; Literary Studies; History and Philosophy of Specific Fields. Overall, HASS returned outputs to 21 disciplinary field codes, where 90% were rated above (4 ranking) or well above world standard (5 ranking). This is indicative of high quality and capacity in research.

These research achievements internationally are reflected in the 2017 Leiden rankings (based on impact, not reputation), where the Humanities and Social Sciences at UQ ranks 16th in the world on the quantum of publications in ranked journals, placing us first in Australia and in the Oceania region (for the full data-set see <http://www.leidenranking.com>).

The quality of our overall Faculty's performance is also evident in the QS World University Rankings for 2017 which places Social Sciences/Management at UQ at 39th in the world, and Humanities at 50th in the world. This data can be accessed at: <http://www.topuniversities.com/faculty-rankings>.

More information about the Faculty can be accessed at <http://www.hass.uq.edu.au/>.

The **Centre for Policy Futures** was established in August 2017 to provide a forum for The University of Queensland's (UQ) researchers to inform policy debate and shape public policy

by connecting academic research with policy and program development. Through robust, rigorous and timely research and sustained policy engagement, the Centre aims to enhance the University's position as a key source of ideas and insights on the policy priorities that matter to Australia and the Indo-Pacific region. The Centre undertakes research and engagement relating to three research themes:

- Science, Technology and Society
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Trade, Foreign & Security Policy

The multi-million, multi-year **CSIRO-UQ Responsible Innovation Partnership** is located within the Science, Technology and Society research program of the Centre. This is a significant partnership and program of joint research activities undertaken collaboratively with the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) (www.csiro.au). CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, is focused on creating measurable economic, environmental and social benefits that better our world and Australia's place in it. This partnership with the Centre for Policy Futures at UQ is designed to undertake collaborative research on [Responsible Innovation](#) in relation to [CSIRO's Future Science Platforms](#). Led by Principal Research Fellow, Associate Professor Paul Henman, this partnership is recruiting two postdoctoral research fellows and [eight PhD students](#). As part of this partnership, the Centre will hold annual events and host internationally renowned visiting scholars.

A key area of interest in the CSIRO-UQ partnership is the implications of new digital technologies to human rights. **Digital rights** is a rapidly emerging research area that examines questions of rights relating to digital data and technologies, including big data, the internet of things, social media, and machine learning (also called Artificial Intelligence). Such research extends traditional foci on privacy, surveillance and data protection, and concerns regarding digital divides, to also include, for example, the digital dimensions of universal human rights. In addition, algorithmic decision making is generating heightened interest in questions about open government, transparency and accountability, as well as administrative (or procedural) justice.

This postdoctoral study will contribute to the development of our understanding and analysis of digital human rights, in both developed and developing country contexts. It will do so with an initial focus on the digital human rights dimensions of new and novel health technologies and applications (such as health apps, health diagnostics and monitoring tools and genetic based precision medicine), with an opportunity to broaden the substantive scope. It will give particular attention to the governance arrangements, regulation and policy design needed to protect and enhance digital human rights in these contexts. Analyses will be used to help inform policy makers and public debate about novel and emerging digital technologies, and the best ways to govern them to achieve social and economic outcomes consistent with respect for human rights, health and well-being.

Further information and details of the research interests of the Centre's research staff may be accessed on the Centre's website at <https://policy-futures.centre.uq.edu.au/>.

Information for Prospective Staff

Information about life at UQ including staff benefits, relocation and UQ campuses is available at - <http://www.uq.edu.au/current-staff/working-at-uq>

The University of Queensland [Enterprise Agreement](#) outlines the position classification standards for Levels A to E.

Information for Prospective Staff

Information about life at UQ including staff benefits, relocation and UQ campuses is available at - <http://www.uq.edu.au/current-staff/working-at-uq>

The University of Queensland [Enterprise Agreement](#) outlines the position classification standards for Levels A to E.

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

The position contributes to a collaborative research partnership between the University of Queensland and CSIRO (as outlined above). A Postdoctoral Fellow is sought to undertake collaborative research in areas relevant to their expertise relating to Digital Human Rights. It will focus initially on digital human rights in relation to health technologies and applications, with an opportunity to broaden the scope to other emerging technologies. The successful appointee will pursue a strong and productive research program in partnership with UQ academics and CSIRO researchers in policy studies, political science, law, and science and technology studies (STS). There will be a strong connection with CSIRO researchers working in the [Precision Health Future Science Platform](#) with the opportunity for co-location between UQ and CSIRO sites during the Fellowship. The successful appointee will also be appointed as a Visiting Scientist at CSIRO to enable effective cross-institutional collaboration and provide opportunity to conduct their research in both academic and applied research settings. The appointee will also benefit from being part of an international network of scholars relating to these issues.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

- Conduct a productive program of collaborative, partnership research in an area relevant to your expertise and to the priorities of the Centre's partnership with CSIRO on Responsible Innovation
- Apply for external research funding and work collaboratively with researchers within the Centre, CSIRO and across the University
- Publish high quality scholarly journal articles, reports, book chapters, monographs and texts, as well as policy, practice and translational publications.
- Present research at relevant conferences and other professional and community fora
- Attract and supervise research higher degree students.

Teaching and Learning

- Contribute to the Centre's professional development program of research training and research translation

Service and Engagement

- Foster the Centre's relations with organisational units in the University, CSIRO, industry, government departments, professional bodies and the wider community
- Contribute to the Centre's links with community, industry, government and professional organisations and groups, including participating in public debate and policy processes
- Promote the Centre's research and teaching programs
- Contribute to the processes that enable the research team to manage the work of the Centre, including participating in Centre decision-making committees

Other

Ensure you are aware of and comply with legislation and University policy relevant to the duties undertaken, including but not exclusive to:

- the [University's Code of Conduct](#)
- requirements of the Queensland occupational health and safety (OH&S) legislation and related [OH&S responsibilities and procedures](#) developed by the University or Institute/School
- the adoption sustainable practices in all work activities and compliance with associated legislation and related University [sustainability responsibilities and procedures](#)
- requirements of the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000, the National Code 2007 and associated legislation, and related [responsibilities and procedures](#) developed by the University

Organisational Relationships

The position reports to the Centre's Principal Research Fellow for Science, Technology and Society.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- PhD in the relevant (social science) discipline relating to the Centre's work, including, but not limited to, science and technology studies (STS), policy studies, political science, law, public administration, sociology, media and communication studies and ethics.
- An emerging track record of high quality publications.
- Demonstrated ability to work harmoniously and collaboratively within a team, while maintaining an individual profile in a research area and contributing to the collegial life of the Centre and its alliance partnership with CSIRO;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to represent and promote the Centre and CSIRO (where appropriate) at a university and wider community level, including industry, government and professional bodies
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English, the language of instruction at The University of Queensland.

Desirable

- Demonstrated research focused in applied social science broadly relating to Digital Rights, the health and well-being sectors and/or policy studies.
- Capacity to use digital social science research methods, such as computational text analysis, social media analysis and data mining.
- Demonstrated links with relevant professional organisations, industry, government and community groups.

Seminar

Applicants invited for interview may be expected to present a research seminar and teaching demonstration in conjunction with the selection interview process. The interview panel will be comprised of staff from both UQ and CSIRO.

Qualification Verification

An appointment to this position is subject to the verification of the highest academic qualification from the conferring institution.

The University of Queensland values diversity and inclusion and actively encourages applications from those who bring diversity to the University. Please refer to the University's Diversity and Inclusion webpage (<http://www.uq.edu.au/equity>) for further information and points of contact if you require additional support.

This role is a full-time position; however flexible working arrangements may be negotiated.

Accessibility requirements and/or adjustments can be directed to (hr@hass.uq.edu.au).