



POSITION DESCRIPTION

School of Social and Political Sciences
Faculty of Arts

ARC Postdoctoral Research Fellow

POSITION NO	0045473
CLASSIFICATION	Level A
SALARY	\$69,148 - \$93,830 p.a.
SUPERANNUATION	Employer contribution of 9.5%
WORKING HOURS	Full-time
BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT	Fixed-term position available for 3 years Fixed-term contract type: Research
OTHER BENEFITS	http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits
HOW TO APPLY	Online applications are preferred. Go to http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers , select the relevant option ('Current Opportunities' or 'Jobs available to current staff'), then find the position by title or number.
CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY	Professor Jenny Lewis Tel +61 3 8344 5194 Email jmlewis@unimelb.edu.au <i>Please do not send your application to this contact</i>

For information about working for the University of Melbourne, visit our website:
about.unimelb.edu.au/careers

Position Summary

This position will work on an Australian Research Council Discovery grant funded titled 'Understanding political debate and policy decisions using big data'. The project will empirically test a novel framework for analysing the relationships between political debates and policy decisions in three different case study areas, over at least the last 20 years. The role will involve theoretical work on conceptualising political debate and empirical work that uses large digital sources from numerous sources to test the framework. The team consists of five chief investigators located in political science and computer science.

The successful candidate will be able to exercise initiative in the research process, and have the ability to identify and research complex political issues drawing on relevant concepts and theories. The candidate will be also able to, with direction and support from the research project team, identify and locate a range of large data sets related to the three case studies – fiscal austerity, antimicrobial resistance, and equal marriage. The candidate should also be capable of working with computer science colleagues in locating data sources and iteratively working with the team on refining appropriate analytical tasks. The roles encompass undertaking background research analysis, assisting in the location and production of empirical data, writing of research papers, and producing high quality collaborative research.

1. Key Responsibilities

- ▶ Assist in the coordination, development, conduct and reporting of research;
- ▶ Conduct literature searches and reviews in support of the three case studies;
- ▶ Work with the team in political science and computer science to clarify search terms and data extraction requirements;
- ▶ Undertake rigorous and appropriate statistical analyses;
- ▶ Contribute substantially to reports and other publications by submission and successful publication of articles in peer reviewed journals during the term of the appointment;
- ▶ Publish academic papers and other scholarly outputs to a high standard, and in accordance with the research expectations of a Level A academic at the Faculty of Arts;
- ▶ Contribute to supporting the research activities of The Policy Lab;
- ▶ Other duties as required by the Director of the Project; and
- ▶ Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in Section 4.

2. Selection Criteria

2.1 ESSENTIAL

- ▶ PhD in Political Science or related discipline;
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively, including with academics from other disciplines;
- ▶ High-level interpersonal and communication skills;
- ▶ Strong research project coordination skills;
- ▶ Well-developed quantitative data analysis skills; and

- ▶ Knowledge of health and safety responsibilities and commitment to attending relevant health and safety training.

2.2 DESIRABLE

- ▶ Demonstrated experience in producing quality research in political science;
- ▶ Experience in analysing empirical data using appropriate methodologies to produce rigorous research findings;
- ▶ Some experience with computation data analytics (e.g. R or Python);
- ▶ Understanding of digital textual analysis and natural language processing.

3. *Equal Opportunity, Diversity and Inclusion*

The University is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing a workplace free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, bullying, vilification and victimisation. The University makes decisions on employment, promotion and reward on the basis of merit.

The University is committed to all aspects of equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion in the workplace and to providing all staff, students, contractors, honorary appointees, volunteers and visitors with a safe, respectful and rewarding environment free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, vilification and victimisation. This commitment is set out in the University's People Strategy 2015-2020 and policies that address diversity and inclusion, equal employment opportunity, discrimination, sexual harassment, bullying and appropriate workplace behaviour. All staff are required to comply with all University policies.

The University values diversity because we recognise that the differences in our people's age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, physical ability and background bring richness to our work environment. Consequently, the People Strategy sets out the strategic aim to drive diversity and inclusion across the University to create an environment where the compounding benefits of a diverse workforce are recognised as vital in our continuous desire to strive for excellence and reach the targets of Growing Esteem.

4. *Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)*

All staff are required to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of other personnel who may be affected by their conduct.

OHS responsibilities applicable to positions are published at:

<http://safety.unimelb.edu.au/people/community/responsibilities-of-personnel>

These include general staff responsibilities and those additional responsibilities that apply for Managers and Supervisors and other Personnel.

5. Other Information

5.1 ORGANISATION UNIT

<http://arts.unimelb.edu.au/ssps>

The School of Social and Political Sciences is at the forefront of teaching and research in the social sciences in Australia. We have a team of dedicated academic and professional staff in the disciplines of Political Science, Criminology, Anthropology, Development Studies and Sociology as well as our allied research centres providing a dynamic and rewarding environment to further your studies.

The School offers a wide range of courses and programs in areas including criminology, development studies, international studies, political science, public and social policy, socio-legal studies, anthropology and sociology. Our courses are concerned with how we make sense of the world in which we live, the current challenges we face and how both Australian and international political, legal and social institutions ought to respond to complex problems which face us in an era of globalisation and rapid social change.

Our students move on to careers in a wide range of areas including local, state and federal government, non-governmental organisations, the media, education, justice, and further academic research.

Further information is available at <http://ssps.unimelb.edu.au>.

5.2 BUDGET DIVISION

<http://arts.unimelb.edu.au/>

The Faculty of Arts is at the forefront of teaching and research in the languages, humanities and social sciences fields in Australia and in many cases internationally. Founded in 1853, the Faculty of Arts is one of Australia's oldest and largest faculties with approximately 400 staff and 8000 students engaged in over 900 subjects in more than 40 areas of study. As Australia's premier Arts faculty, it aims to provide an exciting, high-quality intellectual environment that will attract the best students and staff across a wide range of disciplines.

The Faculty of Arts maintains strong connections with leading international universities through research collaborations and student exchange programs, and nurtures relationships with government, not-for-profit and private organisations through student internship placements, research projects and community engagement.

As well as housing the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Faculty of Arts also comprises five academic schools:

- ▶ Asia Institute
- ▶ School of Culture and Communication
- ▶ School of Historical and Philosophical Studies
- ▶ School of Languages and Linguistics
- ▶ School of Social and Political Sciences

Our students and staff are supported by business units within the Faculty including:

- ▶ The Office of the Dean and Faculty Executive Director

- ▶ The Academic Support Office
- ▶ The Strategy, Planning and Resources Unit
- ▶ The External Relations Unit
- ▶ The Research Office
- ▶ The Human Resources Office

For more information on the Faculty please see www.arts.unimelb.edu.au.

5.3 THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Established in 1853, the University of Melbourne is a leading international university with a tradition of excellence in teaching and research. The main campus in Parkville is recognised as the hub of Australia's premier knowledge precinct comprising eight hospitals, many leading research institutes and a wide-range of knowledge-based industries. With outstanding performance in international rankings, the University is at the forefront of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

The University employs people of outstanding calibre and offers a unique environment where staff are valued and rewarded.

Further information about working at The University of Melbourne is available at <http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers>.

5.4 GROWING ESTEEM, THE MELBOURNE CURRICULUM AND RESEARCH AT MELBOURNE: ENSURING EXCELLENCE AND IMPACT TO 2025

Growing Esteem describes Melbourne's strategy to achieve its aspiration to be a public-spirited and internationally-engaged institution, highly regarded for making distinctive contributions to society in research and research training, learning and teaching, and engagement. <http://about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy-and-leadership>

The University is at the forefront of Australia's changing higher education system and offers a distinctive model of education known collectively as the Melbourne Curriculum. The new educational model, designed for an outstanding experience for all students, is based on six broad undergraduate programs followed by a graduate professional degree, research higher degree or entry directly into employment. The emphasis on academic breadth as well as disciplinary depth in the new degrees ensures that graduates will have the capacity to succeed in a world where knowledge boundaries are shifting and reforming to create new frontiers and challenges. In moving to the new model, the University is also aligning itself with the best of emerging European and Asian practice and well-established North American traditions.

The University's global aspirations seek to make significant contributions to major social, economic and environmental challenges. Accordingly, the University's research strategy *Research at Melbourne: Ensuring Excellence and Impact to 2025* aspires to a significant advancement in the excellence and impact of its research outputs. <http://research.unimelb.edu.au/our-research/research-at-melbourne>

The strategy recognises that as a public-spirited, research-intensive institution of the future, the University must strive to make a tangible impact in Australia and the world, working across disciplinary and sectoral boundaries and building deeper and more substantive engagement with industry, collaborators and partners. While cultivating the

fundamental enabling disciplines through investigator-driven research, the University has adopted three grand challenges aspiring to solve some of the most difficult problems facing our world in the next century. These Grand Challenges include:

- ▶ Understanding our place and purpose – The place and purpose grand challenge centres on understanding all aspects of our national identity, with a focus on Australia's 'place' in the Asia-Pacific region and the world, and on our 'purpose' or mission to improve all dimensions of the human condition through our research.
- ▶ Fostering health and wellbeing – The health and wellbeing grand challenge focuses on building the scale and breadth of our capabilities in population and global health; on harnessing our contribution to the 'convergence revolution' of biomedical and health research, bringing together the life sciences, engineering and the physical sciences; and on addressing the physical, mental and social aspects of wellbeing by looking beyond the traditional boundaries of biomedicine.
- ▶ Supporting sustainability and resilience – The sustainability and resilience grand challenge addresses the critical issues of climate change, water and food security, sustainable energy and designing resilient cities and regions. In addition to the technical aspects, this grand challenge considers the physical and social functioning of cities, connecting physical phenomena with lessons from our past, and the implications of the technical solutions for economies, living patterns and behaviours.

Essential to tackling these challenges, an outstanding faculty, high performing students, wide collaboration including internationally and deep partnerships with external parties form central components of Research at Melbourne: Ensuring Excellence and Impact to 2025.

5.5 GOVERNANCE

The Vice Chancellor is the Chief Executive Officer of the University and responsible to Council for the good management of the University.

Comprehensive information about the University of Melbourne and its governance structure is available at <http://www.unimelb.edu.au/governance>