

## Vacancy Details

Research Fellow – Gurus, Anti-Gurus, and Media in North India

**Vacancy Ref:** : 049355

**Closing Date:** 02-Oct-2019

**Contact Person** Jacob Copeman  
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**Contact** 0131 650 6860  
**Number:**

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You will conduct qualitative research on mediatised anti-superstition activism and related themes in Delhi and Mumbai on a Leverhulme Trust funded project that aims to document and interpret the mediatisation of anti-superstition activism in North India.

You will have a PhD in anthropology or a related field such as media studies, sociology, religious studies, and expertise in qualitative research and media/discourse analysis. Travel to India to conduct the research will be required.

This full time (35 hours per week), fixed term post is available for approximately 28 months from October 2019.

Salary: £33,797 to £40,322 per annum.

Closing date: 5pm (GMT) on 2nd October 2019.

### Job Details

Job title: Research Fellow – Gurus, Anti-Gurus, and Media in North India

School/Support Department: School of Social and Political Science

Unit (if applicable): Social Anthropology

Line manager: Jacob Copeman

### Job Purpose

You will conduct qualitative research on mediatised anti-superstition activism and related themes in Delhi and Mumbai.

The research aims to document and interpret the mediatisation of anti-superstition activism in north India. Research methods will consist primarily of in-depth discussions with activists, TV production teams, TV viewers and guru-devotees, with use of snowballing techniques and purposive selection within the sample population, and social media analysis.

This full time, fixed term post is available for approximately 28 months from October 2019.

## **Main Responsibilities**

1. Design and conduct qualitative research in Mumbai and Delhi, including sourcing and interviewing activists and guru-devotees, and examining a variety of forms of media usage. Research will include use of snowballing techniques and purposive selection within the sample population, and social media analysis.
2. Create, update and maintain the project website (including producing and soliciting content for it from both within and beyond the project team), and lead in planning and organising an international workshop on the subject of the research.
3. Collaborate with the PI and other members of the team in analysis of data, and authoring of publications, single-authoring one and co-authoring one peer-reviewed article (with applicant and co-applicant), and deliver at least two talks at suitable interdisciplinary conferences (e.g. Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin; British Association for South Asian Studies Annual Meetings) during the course of the project.
4. Conduct research design/literature review activities, including sourcing and conducting content analysis of extant anti-superstition media activism.

## **Key Contacts / Relationships**

PI and other members of the project; research participants; academic colleagues in Social Anthropology; support staff in School Research Office.

## **Knowledge, Skills and Experience Needed for the Job**

### Essential

- Ability to conduct research in Hindi or other Indian language.
- Willingness to undertake travel to India to conduct research.
- Appropriate degree in a field relevant to the research area, with relevant postgraduate research experience. Normally a PhD in anthropology or a related field such as media studies or sociology, or equivalent professional qualification and experience.
- Expertise in qualitative research and media/discourse analysis.
- Ability to communicate clearly, both orally and in writing, and to publish high quality scholarly publications. Ability to assess resource requirements and organise and manage allocated resources
- Ability to work effectively both independently and as a member of a team.

### Desirable

- Knowledge of social media infrastructures.
- Knowledge of Indian religions.

**Job Context**

You will join a Leverhulme Trust funded project led by Drs Jacob Copeman (Social Anthropology) and Arkotong Longkumer (Religious Studies) at the University of Edinburgh. This research study examines social/visual media as a site of interaction between gurus and the anti-superstition movement in India. Using a range of religious studies, media studies and anthropological approaches, the project examines how these frequent antagonists employ media techniques to both extend their influence and counter one another, aiming to produce new insights which can enhance existing interpretations of the relationship between religion and media.

The post will be based at the University of Edinburgh, but part of the period of the fellowship will be spent in India in order to conduct research.

**Application Procedure**

To apply please send 1) a CV, including a list of your publications and names of three referees and 2) a cover letter (maximum 4 pages) outlining your prior research experience and qualifications, and the approach you would take to this research study.

Please contact Dr Jacob Copeman with any questions about the post:

[jacob.copeman@ed.ac.uk](mailto:jacob.copeman@ed.ac.uk)

The application process is quick and easy to follow, and you will receive email confirmation of safe receipt of your application. The online system allows you to submit a CV and other attachments.

You will be notified by email whether you have been shortlisted for interview or not.

The closing date is 5pm (GMT) on 2nd October 2019.

More information can be found by searching “Research Fellow – Gurus, Anti-Gurus, and Media in North India” at the University of Edinburgh’s [vacancies website](#).