About King's

Please see the link below for supporting information for prospective applicants. This also includes some background information about the university including rankings, research outputs, King's Health Partner Trusts and our current fundraising initiative.
http://www.kcl.ac.uk/aboutkings/index.aspx

Job description

Post title	Postdoctoral Research Project Fellow
Department/Division	Philosophy
Faculty	Faculty of Arts & Humanities
Grade/salary	Equivalent to £20,000 p.a. FTE, i.e. £5,000 for 3 month fellowships
Hours of work	This is a full time post.
Period of appointment	Fixed Term Contract for 3 months
Responsible to	PI on project
Responsible for	n/a
Campus	Strand

Role purpose

This fellowship will provide early career researchers with the opportunity to be involved in the development of a research grant application in which they will be included as a named postdoctoral researcher. The fellow will work closely with the PI as they prepare a funding application to the ERC Starting Grant scheme. The PI will provide mentoring and career development support for the fellow, in addition to supervising their work on the project grant application.

The fellow will be written into the funding application as a named postdoctoral researcher, and if the application is successful then the fellow involved will be offered a new contract of employment at King's in that capacity.

The fellow will work closely with the project PI during the development of an external research funding application, supporting the development of the research proposal. Their involvement may entail contributing to the development of the application, conducting archival research, carrying out reviews of secondary literature, undertaking scoping studies, liaising with prospective project partners, etc. Please note that the fellow will not be expected to provide financial or administrative support, which is available from Faculty professional services teams and from the College's Research Strategy & Development team.

The Nature of Evidence and the Ethics of Uncertainty

PI: Dr Julian Dutant

The project aims at developing a new foundation for the theory of evidence. It brings together a range of recent developments in epistemology and explores their ramifications in various areas, both within and without philosophy, that rely on the concept of evidence. It focuses particularly on its normative implications for how we ought to manage uncertainty.

Some facts or claims are evidence for further claims. Whether and how such evidential support is possible is a longstanding philosophical issue. There is a striking split in current thinking on the topic. On the one hand we have successful formal tools for thinking about evidence. These are mainly probabilistic models and they impact a range of disciplines either through methodology (debates over suitable standards of hypothesis confirmation in e.g. psychology or medicine) or content (models of agents who form beliefs in the light of evidence, e.g. economics, computer science, cognitive psychology). But the philosophical views that originally motivated them have come under attack. Briefly put, these were "internalist" views who took evidential support to be a matter of logic or wholly subjective. They tend to run into problems when accounting for ordinary perceptual knowledge and they have excessively sceptical implications. On the other hand, a successful "externalist" programme has been developed in epistemology, which views evidential support as neither wholly subjective nor merely logical but rather grounded in natural regularities. But the programme has hardly be connected to dominant models of evidence. The project is to provide new, "externalist", foundations for dominant models of evidence.

Building on the PI's past work, the central hypothesis is that evidential support consists in degrees of safe inference, where the degree of safety of an inference is cashed out in terms of conditional truth of similar inferences. The hypothesis extends currently popular "safety" accounts of knowledge along two lines: safety is now graded and applied to inference as well as belief. The challenge is to recover standard probabilistic models on those grounds.

Ramifications will be explored. Some are revisions within the theory of evidence itself: notably, an account of evidence in deductive domains (mathematics, logic) and an account of how evidential support relations can be learned. Our main focus, however, will be its normative implications, particularly on how we ought to manage uncertainty. Standard models uncertainty tends to lump all epistemic imperfections under the categories of submaximal and indeterminate probabilities. Recent work in "externalist" epistemology distinguishes different types of uncertainty: imperfect evidence, imperfect evidence about the evidence and expected imperfections in the ways one responds to the evidence. While the distinctions are arguably salutary, they generate a proliferation of potentially conflicting epistemic norms. A stable normative outlook has yet to be reached.

Building on the PI's and CI's past work, the project aims at clarifying the normative implications of "externalist" models of evidential support and achieving a unified normative perspective on epistemic imperfection. We will explore impacts of the new normative outlook beyond philosophy in areas such as scientific methodology, accounts of rationality and uses of evidence in ordinary reasoning or in the Law.

The project will benefit from the strengths of the philosophy department at King's. We have a unique expertise on "externalist" approaches to philosophy of science (Prof. D. Papineau and Prof. S. Roush) and on normative issues in epistemology (Dr. C. Littlejohn, Prof. S.

Roush, Prof. D. Owens). The project will draw on and extend the PI's network of working contacts on these topics (notably T. Williamson and J. Broome at Oxford, J. Joyce, B. Weatherson, M. Lasonen-Aarnio and S. Moss at U Michigan, J. Hawthorne and R. Wedgwood at USC, J. Weisberg at U Toronto, A. Mahtani, Ch. List and R. Bradley at LSE, L. Moretti and F. Luzzi at Aberdeen, F. Steinberger at Birkbeck, P. Egré at IJN Paris).

The planned team will consist in:

- PI Julien Dutant. All aspects.

- CI Clayton Littlejohn. Normative aspect.

- Post-doc. Open profile, fluent in formal epistemology.

- PhD with a formal profile, on the theory of evidence.

- PhD with a non-formal profile, on normative issues or interdisciplinary impact.

The Fellow

We seek a researcher with a background in epistemology or philosophy of science, with strengths in one or more of the following: formal epistemology, epistemic logic, confirmation theory, belief revision theory, theories of rationality. Interdisciplinary research interests in potential areas of application (such as scientific methodology, psychology of reasoning, risk management) will be an advantage. The applicant must show evidence of a strong research potential and be willing to develop in one of the subfields of the project and take part in the organisation of its research activities (seminar, workshops and public events).

Workplan

The main task of the postdoctoral fellow will be to take part in 13 weekly meetings with the PI for literature reviews and preparation of the project. In addition, they will take part in a term-time weekly research seminar on a topic related to the project (uncertainty in formal epistemology, Formal Methods research group), they will have 3 to 5 supervision meetings with the PI on their research leading to at least one submitted paper or writing sample, and they will prepare job and/or funding applications for the 2016-7 job market.

The 13 project meetings planned are as follows.

Weeks 1-5. State of the art

- Bayesianism: subjective and objective accounts of the priors.
- Calibration and Chance-Credence principles.
- Accuracy arguments and their limits.
- Imperfect evidence: certainty-loss frameworks.
- Imperfect evidence about the evidence: higher-order evidence.

Week 6-7. Scientific part

- Degrees of safe inference: proposal and challenges.
- Normative integration: proposal and challenges.
- Transformative impact within philosophy.

Week 8-9. Team and activities

- Review of the PhDs and Post-doc research projects.
- Review of workshops themes, participants, schedule of output.

Week 10-13. Interdisciplinary impact

- Potential impact on scientific methodology.

- Potential impact on models of rationality (economics, computer science).
- Potential impact on uses of evidence (psychology of reasoning, evidence in Law).

**Mentoring and support for career development**

Mentoring. The post-doctoral fellow will acquire hands-on experience on how to build a research project by working in close weekly interaction with the PI. That will involve:

- Collaborative literature reviews, with an emphasis of selectivity and synthesis.
- Framing a research hypothesis and developing it into a multi-faceted research programme.
- Finding and selecting promising areas of interdisciplinary impact.
- Planning activities and outputs.
- Networking with potential project participants or affiliates.

Support for career development. The fellow's development will be supported by:

- 3 to 5 supervisions meetings leading to at least one writing sample or submitted paper. These will take place with the PI or, if mutually agreed, other Faculty members.
- Support from the PI and other Faculty members in preparing job and/or funding applications.

Organisational chart

Head of Department

⇕

Principal Investigator

⇕

Postdoctoral Research Project Fellow
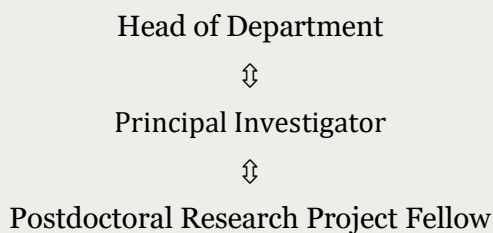
About the Faculty

We are one of the UK's most prestigious arts and humanities faculties based in the heart of London with close links with renowned cultural institutions including the British Museum, Shakespeare's Globe and the National Portrait Gallery.

We are one of the most diverse faculties in terms of subject range in the University of London and are therefore able to offer undergraduate degrees, postgraduate masters and research opportunities in all aspects of human culture and history, from ancient languages and history to contemporary film studies.

Many of our departments are ranked in the top 10 in the country including Film Studies (1st), Classics (7th), History (7th), Theology & Religious Studies (8th) and Philosophy (8th) according to the Guardian University Guide

99% of research in the Faculty has been judged as having an outstanding (4*) and very significant impact (3*) and many departments in the Faculty were rated in the top 10 nationally for both the power and quality of their research (REF, 2014)

Interdisciplinarity is central to what we do, whether through holding collaborative public events (such as our annual Arts & Humanities Festival), joint teaching with other departments in the College or combining research expertise to focus our work on new areas.

http://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/index.aspx

About the Department of Philosophy

Consistently ranked among the top philosophy departments in the country for research and teaching, the Department of Philosophy at King's College London is one of the largest and most distinguished in the UK, if not the world. It ranked 6th in the UK in the 2016 QS World University Rankings by Subject.

The Department was ranked 3rd in the UK, and 1st in London, for both quality and power according to the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) rankings: 80% of research was valued as being of a world-leading (4*) or internationally excellent (3*) standard and 63% of its research scored the top rating for impact with an outstanding reach and significance.

Person specification

Eligibility to work in the United Kingdom

Applications are welcome from international candidates. However, this post does not meet Home Office requirements that would qualify it for a Certificate of Sponsorship and consequently the university would be unable to offer sponsorship for a visa under Tier 2 of the points based immigration system to anyone appointed to the post.

For details of alternative routes to obtaining permission to work in the UK please refer to the UK Visas and Immigration website:
www.gov.uk/visas-immigration

Criteria	Essential	Desirable	How identified and assessed*
*For **'How identified and assessed'** use: **AP** - application, **AS** - assessment, **I** - interview, **P** - presentation, **R** - references			
Education / qualification and training			
PhD in a field relevant to the research project	X		AP
Interdisciplinary research interests in potential areas of application (such as scientific methodology, psychology of reasoning, risk management)		X	AP
Knowledge / skills			
Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues at all levels	X		AP/I
Ability to carry out scoping studies		X	AP/I
Ability to liaise with project partners within and outside of academia		X	AP
Ability to evaluate alternative proposals and approaches		X	AP/I
Ability to meet deadlines	X		AP/I
Experience			
Good publication record or potential		X	AP
Experience of involvement in research projects and/or research funding applications		X	AP/I
Personal characteristics/other requirements			
Willingness to work as part of a cohort alongside other Postdoctoral Research Project Fellows	X		AP

Criteria	Essential	Desirable	How identified and assessed*
*For **'How identified and assessed'** use: **AP** - application, **AS** - assessment, **I** - interview, **P** - presentation, **R** - references			
Ability to work well in a research team, contributing to the collective development of ideas, applications and outputs	X		AP
Ability to interact with academic, research, professional services colleagues and those beyond the university context	X		AP
Willingness to participate in seminars and other academic events held by the host Department		X	AP

Occupational Health Clearance

As part of our pre-employment checks the successful applicant will be sent a 'Health and Capability Declaration Form' and if they declare that they do have a health condition or disability that may require accommodation measures so that they are able to carry out their work comfortably and efficiently, they will be sent an Occupational Health Questionnaire to determine whether any reasonable accommodation measures are required for the candidate to take up the post.

Summary of Terms and Conditions of Service

This appointment is made under the King's College London Terms and Conditions of Service for Research staff a copy of which is available from the Recruitment Team upon request.

Probation

Six months

Annual leave

27 working days per annum pro rata (please note the annual leave year runs from January-December) bank holidays and customary closure days in are in addition to the annual leave entitlement. Staff receive four additional customary closure days in December. Notification as to how these days are taken is circulated at the start of the academic year.

Superannuation

This appointment is superannuable the USS www.uss.co.uk pension scheme. In accordance with recent legislation, we automatically enrols our staff in a pension scheme if they meet certain age and earning criteria. This is known as auto-enrolment. The university collects pension contributions via a salary sacrifice method called *PensionsPlus*. These deductions are made before the calculation of tax and national insurance is calculated; therefore reducing the amount you pay.

Staff already superannuated under the NHS Superannuation Scheme may opt to remain in that scheme provided an application to do so is received by the NHS scheme trustees within

three months of appointment to King's College London. Please note that NHS Superannuation Scheme: Medical Schools are classed as "Direction Employers" and some benefits of the NHS Scheme are not available to Direction members.

Alternatively staff may opt to take out a personal pension. Please note that the university does not provide an employer's contribution towards a private pension plan.

Staff benefits

King's College London offers a wide range of staff benefits. For the full comprehensive list of staff benefits please refer to our website:
www.kcl.ac.uk/hr/staffbenefits

Applying for the post

At the bottom of the HireWire advert you will be directed to download and complete the required application form. Please then upload your application form via your profile into the HireWire system.

https://www.hirewire.co.uk/HE/1061247/MS_JobDetails.aspx?JobID=70386

We will not accept curriculum vitae in isolation and you must complete the required application form for your application to be considered.

Applicants with disabilities

King's College London is keen to increase the number of disabled people it employs. We therefore encourage applications from individuals with a disability who are able to carry out the duties of the post. If you have special needs in relation to your application please contact the Recruitment Coordinator responsible for the administration of the post on
recruitmentteam3@kcl.ac.uk