

Job Description

Summary

Job title	Digital Policy Postdoctoral Researcher
Division	Social Sciences
Department	Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Faculty of Law
Location	Manor Road Building, Oxford
Grade and salary	Grade 7: £36,024 - £44,263 per annum
Hours	Full time
Contract type	Fixed-term until 28 February 2026
Reporting to	Dr Nicole Stremlau
Vacancy reference	170358
Closing date	5 February 2024
Interview date	Interviews will take place as soon as possible after the closing date.

The role

The post holder will be a member of a research group in the Centre for Socio Legal Studies with responsibility for carrying out research related to media and technology law and policy. They will be an integral part of the law in the digital world research cluster and the Programme in Comparative Media Law and policy and report to Nicole Stremlau. The post holder will collaborate with colleagues both within the CSLS and external collaborators, particularly in Europe. This is an exciting opportunity for a postdoctoral researcher to engage in data collection, develop a publication record, participate in international networks and have opportunities to present at international meetings and conferences. The post holder provides guidance to junior members of the research group including research assistants, PhD students, and/or project volunteers.

Responsibilities

- Contribute to the EU Horizon project [Resilient Media for Democracy in the Digital Age \(ReMed\)](#). This involves collaborating with an international research team and collaboratively delivering research outputs. There will be opportunities for field research with alternative media providers, research with fact checking organizations in Europe, and comparative research on government responses to information disorder (mis/disinformation and online hate speech).

- Contribute to the establishment of a new executive course- [InfoLead](#)- for policymakers and judges on addressing information disorder in the age of AI funded by the European Media Information Fund (EMIF) (approximately .5FTE until May 2025, after which the postholder will be 1FTE on ReMed)
- Analyse qualitative and quantitative data from a variety of sources, reviewing and refining theories as appropriate
- Collaborate in the preparation of research publications, including articles and book chapters
- Contribute ideas for new research projects and prepare applications in collaboration with the project team
- Present papers at conferences or public meetings
- Act as a source of information and advice to other members of the group on methodologies or procedures
- Develop ideas for generating research income, and present detailed research proposals to senior researchers
- Represent the research group at external meetings/seminars, either with other members of the group or alone
- Carry out collaborative projects with colleagues in partner institutions, and research groups

Selection criteria

Essential selection criteria

- Hold a relevant PhD/Dphil in the social sciences or be close to completion - this could be law, media, politics, public policy
- Possess sufficient knowledge about contemporary debates around media, technology, AI policy to work within established research programmes and networks, particularly in Europe
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to write for publication, present research proposals and results, and represent the research network at meetings.
- Demonstrated ability to manage own academic research and associated activities, including experience of contributing to international academic events and networks on media law and policy
- Experience of actively collaborating in the development of research articles for publication
- Be a good team player with the ability to work across a range of issues and research projects
- Ability to manage own academic research and associated activities
- Ability to contribute ideas for new research projects and research income generation
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to write for publication, present research proposals and results, and represent the research group at meetings

Desirable selection criteria

- Experience contributing to training courses or summer schools

Pre-employment screening

Standard checks

If you are offered the post, the offer will be subject to standard pre-employment checks. You will be asked to provide: proof of your right-to-work in the UK; proof of your identity; and (if we haven't done so already) we will contact the referees you have nominated. If you have previously worked for the University we will also verify key information such as your dates of employment and reason for leaving your previous role with the department/unit where you worked. You will also be asked to complete a health declaration so that you can tell us about any health conditions or disabilities for which you may need us to make appropriate adjustments.

Please read the candidate notes on the University's pre-employment screening procedures at:

<https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/pre-employment-checks>

About the University of Oxford

Welcome to the University of Oxford. We aim to lead the world in research and education for the benefit of society both in the UK and globally. Oxford's researchers engage with academic, commercial and cultural partners across the world to stimulate high-quality research and enable innovation through a broad range of social, policy and economic impacts.

We believe our strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, while providing all our staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that enables everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is our strength, vital for innovation and creativity, we aspire to build a truly diverse community which values and respects every individual's unique contribution.

While we have long traditions of scholarship, we are also forward-looking, creative and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe's most entrepreneurial universities and we rank first in the UK for university spin-outs, and in recent years we have spun out 15-20 new companies every year. We are also recognised as leaders in support for social enterprise.

Join us and you will find a unique, democratic and international community, a great range of staff benefits and access to a vibrant array of cultural activities in the beautiful city of Oxford.

For more information, please visit www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation.

Centre for Socio-Legal Studies

For over fifty years the Oxford Centre has been at the forefront of research into the nature and role of law in society. Our researchers study law as a historical and culturally specific mode of social organisation that takes a variety of forms within and across societies. Our expert staff bring together a wide variety of disciplinary expertise including law, sociology, anthropology, politics, international relations, human rights, economics, geography and art history to examine the interface of law and society. Staff at the Centre also have area expertise in Eastern Europe, Africa, Australia, Asia and the US. Researchers at the Centre specialise in theoretically informed studies of law in action and much of our work draws on expertise in interviewing, participant observation, oral history, focus groups, surveys, discourse analysis and statistical analysis of data. Our core staff of experienced Professors, Associate Professors and Post-doctoral fellows are complemented by 25 research students who form the largest collection of socio-legal students in one academic unit in the UK. In the informal and relaxed atmosphere of the Centre we teach and supervise graduate research students at both Master's and doctoral level. Our students are international in their backgrounds and outlook as well as being diverse in their academic qualifications. They bring exciting and fresh ideas to our research clusters and their commitment and energy contribute substantially to our success. The Centre is also an ideal base for post-doctoral scholars who wish to receive specialist mentoring, develop their projects, gain academic experience, and launch their careers. Members of our community conduct research into the socio-legal dynamics of some of the most pressing political questions of the day, such as human rights, technologies and social media; comparative legal cultures; access to justice; governance of environmental resources; ethical business regulation; the migration crisis and cultural expertise; legal ideology and religion; and

the management of counter terrorism cases in the courts. The Centre has a select number of research associates and a lively visitors' programme.

Faculty of Law

The Faculty of Law prides itself on being a centre of excellence for the study and research of law, a place where tradition meets innovation, where scholars and students collaborate to further the academic study and practical application of law.

We are proud of our rich legacy of legal education that spans generations. We have the best staff-student ratio of any law school in the UK. We have consistently upheld the highest standards of academic rigour and played an integral role in shaping the legal landscape, both domestically and internationally. We steward the future of legal scholarship through running the largest doctoral programme in the English-speaking world.

Our commitment to research and innovation is unwavering. Our faculty members are at the forefront of groundbreaking legal research, contributing to the evolution of legal thought and policy in an ever-changing world.

Their expertise spans diverse areas of law, from corporate to human rights, from criminal to environmental, and they bring to the classroom a wealth of practical experience and theoretical insight. Our students have the privilege of learning from the best, engaging in thought-provoking discussions, and honing their legal skills under the guidance of these eminent scholars.

We deliver cutting-edge programmes, including the highly regarded BCL/MJur, Masters in Law and Finance and BA in Jurisprudence. Our community is made of students and staff from across the world, from many different backgrounds, with a variety of ethnicities, religions, and sexual and gender identities.

We are home to centres of expertise in specialist areas such as the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, the Centre for Criminology, the Oxford Human Rights Hub, the Institute for European and Comparative Law, the Oxford Intellectual Property Research Centre and the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies.

Oxford's Law Faculty is the largest community of legal scholars in the UK, and consistently ranks among the top universities for Law and Legal Studies.

Social Sciences Division

Social Sciences is one of four academic Divisions in the University, each with considerable devolved budgetary and financial authority, and responsibility for providing a broad strategic focus across its constituent disciplines.

Thirteen departments, one faculty, and three cross-divisional research units come under the aegis of the division which spans the full range of social science disciplines with links into the humanities and physical sciences (including Law, Management, Economics, Politics and International Relations, Sociology, Social Policy, Area Studies, Development Studies, Education, Anthropology, Archaeology, Geography, Public Policy). There are over 700 academic staff, 2,700 graduate students (postgraduate taught and postgraduate research), and 1900 undergraduates working and studying in the division. The division is established as a world-leading centre for research in the social sciences and regularly sits at the highest levels of international league tables of one form or another. It is the largest grouping of social science disciplines in the UK and it is also home to several of Oxford's most widely recognised teaching programmes, such as PPE, the BCL, the MPhils in International Relations, in Economics, and in Development Studies, and the nationally regarded PGCE. We believe that excellence in teaching and research is synergistic and remain committed to sustaining and developing the high quality of our activities in both these areas. Our departments are committed to research which develops a greater understanding of all aspects of society, from the impact of political, legal and economic systems on social and economic welfare to Communications Assistant – August 2023 5 human rights and security. That research is disseminated through innovative graduate programmes and enhances undergraduate courses. For more information please visit:

<http://www.socsci.ox.ac.uk>

How to apply

Applications are made through our online recruitment portal. Information about how to apply is available on our Jobs website <https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/how-to-apply>.

Your application will be judged solely on the basis of how you demonstrate that you meet the selection criteria stated in the job description.

As part of your application you will be asked to provide details of two referees and indicate whether we can contact them now.

You will be asked to upload a CV and a supporting statement. The supporting statement must explain how you meet each of the selection criteria for the post using examples of your skills and experience. This may include experience gained in employment, education, or during career breaks (such as time out to care for dependants)

Please upload all documents **as PDF files** with your name and the document type in the filename.

All applications must be received by **midday** UK time on the closing date stated in the online advertisement.

Information for priority candidates

A priority candidate is a University employee who is seeking redeployment because they have been advised that they are at risk of redundancy, or on grounds of ill-health/disability. Priority candidates are issued with a redeployment letter by their employing department(s).

If you are a priority candidate, please ensure that you attach your redeployment letter to your application (or email it to the contact address on the advert if the application form used for the vacancy does not allow attachments).

If you need help

Application FAQs, including technical troubleshooting advice is available at:

<https://staff.web.ox.ac.uk/recruitment-support-faqs>

Non-technical questions about this job should be addressed to the recruiting department directly recruitment@law.ox.ac.uk

To return to the online application at any stage, please go to: www.recruit.ox.ac.uk.

Please note that you will receive an automated email from our online recruitment portal to confirm receipt of your application. **Please check your spam/junk mail** if you do not receive this email.

Important information for candidates

Data Privacy

Please note that any personal data submitted to the University as part of the job application process will be processed in accordance with the GDPR and related UK data protection legislation. For further information, please see the University's Privacy Notice for Job Applicants at: <https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/job-applicant-privacy-policy>. The University's Policy on Data Protection is available at: <https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/data-protection-policy>.

The University's policy on retirement

The University operates an Employer Justified Retirement Age (EJRA) for very senior research posts at **grade RSIV/D35 and clinical equivalents E62 and E82** of 30 September before the 70th birthday. The justification for this is explained at: <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>.

For **existing** employees on these grades, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>.

There is no normal or fixed age at which staff in posts at other grades have to retire. Staff at these grades may elect to retire in accordance with the rules of the applicable pension scheme, as may be amended from time to time.

Equality of opportunity

Entry into employment with the University and progression within employment will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria which are related to the duties of each particular post and the relevant salary structure. In all cases, ability to perform the job will be the primary consideration. No applicant or member of staff shall be discriminated against because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Benefits of working at the University

Employee benefits

University employees enjoy 38 days' paid holiday, generous pension schemes, travel discounts, and a variety of professional development opportunities. Our range of other employee benefits and discounts also includes free entry to the Botanic Gardens and University colleges, and discounts at University museums. See <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/staff-benefits>

University Club and sports facilities

Membership of the University Club is free for all University staff. The University Club offers social, sporting, and hospitality facilities. Staff can also use the University Sports Centre on Iffley Road at discounted rates, including a fitness centre, powerlifting room, and swimming pool. See www.club.ox.ac.uk and <https://www.sport.ox.ac.uk/>.

Information for staff new to Oxford

If you are relocating to Oxfordshire from overseas or elsewhere in the UK, the University's Welcome Service website includes practical information about settling in the area, including advice on relocation, accommodation, and local schools. See <https://welcome.ox.ac.uk/>

There is also a visa loan scheme to cover the costs of UK visa applications for staff and their dependants. See <https://staffimmigration.admin.ox.ac.uk/visa-loan-scheme>

Family-friendly benefits

With one of the most generous family leave schemes in the Higher Education sector, and a range of flexible working options, Oxford aims to be a family-friendly employer. We also subscribe to the Work+Family Space, a service that provides practical advice and support for employees who have caring responsibilities. The service offers a free telephone advice line, and the ability to book emergency back-up care for children, adult dependents and elderly relatives. See <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/my-family-care>

The University has excellent childcare services, including five University nurseries as well as University-supported places at many other private nurseries.

For full details, including how to apply and the costs, see <https://childcare.admin.ox.ac.uk/>

Disabled staff

We are committed to supporting members of staff with disabilities or long-term health conditions. For further details, including information about how to make contact, in confidence, with the University's Staff Disability Advisor, see <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/disability-support>

Staff networks

The University has a number of staff networks including the Oxford Research Staff Society, BME staff network, LGBT+ staff network and a disabled staff network. You can find more information at <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/networks>

The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club

The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club is an organisation run by volunteers that aims to assist the partners of new staff settle into Oxford, and provides them with an opportunity to meet people and make connections in the local area. See www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk.

Oxford Research Staff Society (OxRSS)

A society run by and for Oxford University research staff. It offers researchers a range of social and professional networking opportunities. Membership is free, and all researchers employed by Oxford University are welcome to join. Subscribe at researchstaff-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk to join the mailing list to find out about upcoming events and other information for researchers, or contact the committee on committee@oxrss.ox.ac.uk. For more information, see www.ox.ac.uk/oxrss, Twitter @ResStaffOxford, and Facebook www.facebook.com/oxrss.