University of St Andrews

Philosophical, Anthropological and Film Studies

Research Fellow (Rabies – Urban Zoonosis

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Introduction

"Our remarkable students and staff are the lifeblood of St Andrews. It is their energy, vision and momentum [we] aim to support, to free them to use knowledge, ideas, and potential for the benefit of all." The Principal, Professor Sally Mapstone

Founded in 1413, the University of St Andrews is Scotland's first university and one of the oldest in the English-speaking world. With more than 600 years of academic excellence, we are proud of our reputation as a world-class centre for learning, teaching, and research.

St Andrews is a close-knit, international community set in a beautiful historic town on Scotland's east coast. Our students and staff come from over 140 countries, creating a diverse and globally minded environment. We strive to create an inclusive culture in which all can flourish, and the University has attained several diversity awards, including those related to race and gender equality, and support for carers, which demonstrate our commitment to this ambition. The University is consistently ranked among the UK's top institutions for student satisfaction, research quality, and teaching excellence.

We are a research-intensive university where creativity, collaboration, and critical inquiry are at the heart of everything we do. Whether you are joining us in an academic, professional, or support role, you will be part of a team committed to delivering outstanding education and making a meaningful contribution to society.

For those looking to be part of a university with deep-rooted heritage, a global outlook, and a forward-thinking approach, we invite you to consider joining our community at the University of St Andrews.

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The Project

The project will investigate how zoonosis (the transmission of diseases from animals to humans) emerged as a scientific and governmental problem between 1770 and 1870 at the crossroads of medicine, pathology, physiology, epidemiology, veterinary medicine and public health. Rather than reading this historical process from the teleological lens of the eventual bacteriological illumination of zoonosis, the project will explore how, as a novel question for science, state and empire posed at a key junction in their formation, zoonosis played a catalytic role in transforming modern medicine, multispecies relations, governance and their inter-relation. Examining how different diseases (glanders, rabies, anthrax, trichinosis) became scientifically understood and governed as zoonoses, the project will ask: 1) What forms of scientific knowledge were involved in and became fostered by the development of zoonosis as a new disease category?; 2) How did the new category of zoonotic diseases bring together the governance of animals and humans in different contexts of its application? Project researchers will explore the ways in which zoonosis transformed understandings of contagion, reconfigured multispecies relations, and led to new medical approaches to space. The project will examine the connected histories of scientific framings of zoonosis in 1770-1870 Europe, and the ways in which these became entangled with colonial and decolonial projects in Algeria (glanders), Argentina (rabies), and Saint-Domingue (anthrax), and, in the case of trichinosis, led to the emergence of the first zoonotic surveillance system (Duchy of Brunswick). The project will foster a new historical understanding of the formation and development the question of zoonosis as an epistemic and biopolitical catalyst, delivering a new framework for examining modern medicine, governance, multispecies relations and their interrelation at a crucial period of their development.

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Social Anthropology

The Department of Social Anthropology sits within the School of Philosophical, Anthropological and Film Studies at St Andrews. Each Department within the School is a self-contained academic unit, with key administrative and management roles shared across the School. The Department has grown significantly in recent years, and currently comprises 19 permanent members of academic staff, with an additional 16 colleagues in a variety of research and/or teaching fellowships and a community of nearly 40 PhD students.

Social Anthropology at St Andrews is celebrated for its innovation in new and emerging research fields such as energy ethics, medicine and wellbeing, ethnographic methodology, art and material culture, and sensory cultures alongside a diverse programme of research-led teaching at both undergraduate and taught postgraduate levels. We are regularly ranked first in the National Student Survey and top five in key national surveys (e.g. The Times). In the REF 2021 cycle we won close to £5.0M in research funding, quintupling the figure for the previous REF cycle.

We lead internationally recognised research projects in energy ethics, epidemiology and zoonotic disease, ethnographic horizons of crisis in Europe, the Amazon and the Pacific, and technologies of memorialisation and justice-seeking across Europe. Hosting these and related projects has brought focus and shape to shared thematic priorities across the Department's commitments to ethnographic innovation and collaborative methodologies.

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Social Anthropology

The department also fosters exciting and significant research streams in history and archive, and sensory and material cultures. Cutting across all these interests is special attention to histories and cultures of social inequality and migration. We take pride in nurturing our vibrant research community with its multiple strands of lively collaboration between individuals, research clusters and centres and their international partners, many of which are in the Global South.

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Job Description

Reporting to:	Professor Christos Lynteris
Location:	St Andrews
Job Family:	Research
Working Hours:	36.25 hours per week
Grade/Salary Range:	Grade 6 £38,784 - £46,049 per annum
Reference Number:	AR3359LS
Start Date:	01 October 2027
Interview Date:	08 February 2027
Duration of post:	4 Years

Main Purpose of the Role

The Postdoctoral Research Fellow (Rabies – Urban Zoonosis) will examine how rabies became scientifically understood and governed as a zoonotic disease between 1770 and 1870. The Research Fellow will undertake archival research in Europe and Argentina and will examine the development of shifting scientific framings of zoonotic rabies in European settings and how these became interrelated with urban governance of dogs in Europe and Argentina between 1770 and 1870. Through this research, the Postdoctoral Research Fellow will also contribute to the project's wider exploration of the formation and impact of "zoonosis" as a scientific category and framework before the bacteriological revolution.

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Key Responsibilities

1. Plan and conduct own research activities within the project to meet deadlines and deliverables. This includes:

   i Archival research on the history of scientific frameworks and governmental approaches to rabies as a zoonotic disease (1770-1870) in Europe and Argentina
   ii. Peer-reviewed publications arising from project-related research
   iii. Co-organisation and participation by presentation in the project's conferences
   iv. Contribution of information required for reports to the funder
   v. Collaborative research with PI and other project researchers

2. Understand and convey material of a specialist or highly technical nature to the team and, where applicable, the funding body/sponsor through presentations, discussions and progress reports.

3. Write up research work for publication in peer-reviewed journals (as principal or co-author).

4. Write and present research papers (and, where applicable, posters) at conferences, seminars and workshops.

5. Engage in networking activities to make internal and external contacts, to develop knowledge and to form relationships for future research collaboration.

6. Participation in outreach via press releases, social media, blogs and talks at public events.

7. Develop specialist knowledge in the research area to deal with problems affecting the achievement of research objectives and deadlines, devising solutions to unexpected challenges in collaboration with the PI.

8. Plan and manage own administrative activities.

9. Contribute to the organisation of seminars, workshops and conferences.

10. Proactively engage with other members of the research group and engage with the research environment within the School.

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Key Responsibilities

11. Supervise and provide support and guidance to research team members and assigned project student(s) as appropriate.

12. Use initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, develop new research methods and extend the research portfolio.

13. Ensure compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements including equality and diversity, data protection, copyright and licensing, security, financial, health and safety and other University policies, procedures and codes as appropriate.

Special Requirements:

This position will involve international travel to attend meetings and undertake research in Argentina, Spain, and other European countries

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Person Specification

Attributes	Essential	Desirable	Means of Assessment (i.e. application form, interview, test, presentation etc.)
Education & Qualifications (*technical, professional, academic qualifications and training required)*	Good first degree in relevant subject Hold or be close to submission of PhD in relevant subject		Application/ certificates
Experience & Knowledge (*examples of specific experience and knowledge sought*)	Experience of applying relevant analytical skills, techniques and methods including: archival research Evidence of ability to engage in high-level research in an interdisciplinary context, with publications and participation in scholarly activity commensurate with stage of career.	Evidence of regional expertise relating to Argentina or other South American countries Demonstrate clear potential for high quality research publications Experience of organising activities for scholarly or public audiences. Knowledge Spanish (speaking)	Interview/ Presentation Interview

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Person Specification

Attributes	Essential	Desirable	Means of Assessment (i.e. application form, interview, test, presentation etc.)
Experience & Knowledge (*examples of specific experience and knowledge sought*)	Developing research track record commensurate with stage in career Advanced knowledge of Spanish (reading)		Interview/ Presentation
Competencies & Skills (e.g. effective communication skills, initiative, flexibility, leadership etc)	Effective communicator (orally and in writing) Well-developed presentation skills including ability to communicate complex, theoretical and technical material in an engaging and intelligible way to a range of audiences including non-specialists. Collegiality/willingness to work in a collaborative environment.	Impact and engagement evidence of disseminating research to constituencies beyond the academic community.	Application/ Interview Interview/ Presentation Interview/ References Interview/ References

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Person Specification

Attributes	Essential	Desirable	Means of Assessment (i.e. application form, interview, test, presentation etc.)
Competencies & Skills (*e.g. effective communication skills, initiative, flexibility, leadership etc*)	Ability to work autonomously and to be proactive in identifying and resolving issues Administrative and IT skills appropriate for the efficient and effective delivery of research. Well-developed time management skills with the ability to meet deadlines		Application Interview/ References
Other Attributes/Abilities (if applicable)	Evidence of keeping up to date with new developments in relevant knowledge and techniques.	Evidence of participation in relevant academic and professional associations/bodies and external research networks.	Application/Interview

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Benefits

St Andrews offers more than just a place to work—it is a place to belong. We value collegiality, inclusion, and wellbeing, and we are committed to creating a workplace where staff can thrive and perform at their best.

In addition to the salary on offer for this position, there are a wide range of benefits for staff working at the University of St Andrews. The package for the Research Fellow (Rabies – Urban Zoonosis) includes:

- Financial contribution to relocation (subject to eligibility)
- Membership of the USS Pension Scheme with a generous employer contribution of 14.5%
- A hybrid working environment, including partial homeworking where appropriate and a range of family friendly policies, supporting work-life balance
- Staff discount scheme for local and national goods and services
- Free staff parking, employee Carshare and Cycle to Work Schemes and subsidised local bus travel
- Subsidised sports membership, reduced tuition fees on degree programmes for staff, access to training and development opportunities including LinkedIn Learning, access to library facilities, salary sacrifice scheme
- 34 Days Annual Leave plus 5 Public Holidays.

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How to Apply

We are committed to creating an accessible, fair and inclusive recruitment process for all candidates. If you require reasonable adjustments or accommodations during the application or interview process then please let us know and we will be happy to discuss support with you.

We encourage applicants to apply online at www.vacancies.st-andrews.ac.uk/welcome.aspx

If you have difficulties in completing the online application form, then please call +44 (0)1334 461990 or contact vacancies@st-andrews.ac.uk to discuss available support.

Applications should consist of:

- Letter of application (to include envisioned contribution to the project).
- CV
- Names and contacts of three referees
- Publication sample, up to 25 pages (this can be a thesis chapter)

For all applications, please quote ref: AR3359LS

The University of St Andrews is a charity registered in Scotland (No SC013532).

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Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

At St Andrews, we see diversity as a strength and value the rich variety of backgrounds, identities and experiences of our staff, students and alumni. We are committed to making the University a beacon of inclusivity and creating an environment where everyone can flourish and realise their potential.

We will achieve this through an approach that empowers our whole community and involves a determined shift in culture. Inclusivity will inform all of our policies and practices. The Principal, Professor Sally Mapstone

Diverse is a core theme of the University Strategy, and alongside our People Strategy, outlines a number of actions we are taking to create an inclusive culture. Our objectives include raising awareness of diversity events, initiatives and support, strengthening support for staff networks, creating more opportunities for employees to engage in consultations and discussions, offering a diverse range of rewarding career pathways and ensuring a working environment which supports positive working practices and behaviours.

We commit to providing a high-quality staff experience which enables all our staff to contribute, thrive, and perform at their best. By joining us at the University of St Andrews, you are joining a community which values difference, being your authentic self, and where you can play an active role in ensuring an inclusive environment for all.

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St Andrews

A modern location surrounded with ancient history, St Andrews is a dynamic and friendly town found on the east coast of Scotland. Situated in the Kingdom of Fife, St Andrews has easy links to nearby commuter towns and transport links (including airports) to the nearby cities of Dundee (13 miles) and Edinburgh (c. 1 hour by train).

Beyond the lecture halls and labs, St Andrews is home to stunning, unspoilt beaches and fresh sea air. Take a peaceful stroll or an energising walk with friends along the iconic two-mile stretch of the West Sands. If you prefer the water, ride the waves at the East Sands or try sailing, sea kayaking and windsurfing. For breathtaking views, a walk to the end of the stone pier is an experience not to be missed.

St Andrews and the surrounding area is home to a wide range of restaurants and shops, while boasting an array of beautiful beaches. St Andrews is also the home of golf and there are seven local courses including the famous Old Course.

Fife is an area filled with history and culture. There are nearly 5,000 listed buildings and 50 conservation areas across the Kingdom, with some historic structures dating all the way back to the 12th century. St Andrews enjoys a microclimate and is typically much drier than western parts of the country.

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Further Information

The University encourages all interested candidates to apply, and all applications received are assessed against the essential and desirable criteria listed in the further particulars. The successful candidate will have to demonstrate their right to work in the UK prior to commencing employment and where required, the University can support with visa sponsorship.

You are expected to uphold a duty of care towards colleagues, students, and communities, and to actively contribute to a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment. This includes responding appropriately to disclosures or reports of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence, bullying, harassment, or other concerns, in line with organisational policies, and signposting individuals to the appropriate departments

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