Research Associate in the Comparative Archaeology of Premodern Economies

Department: Archaeology

Hours of work: 37 hours per week | full time

Contract type: Fixed-term, 24 months

Salary: £38,448 - £46,970 per year | Grade 6

Grade: 6 **Ref**: 210

Introduction

We are seeking a comparative archaeologist to join us at the University of York and collaborate in the assembly of quantitative data from the premodern economies of South Asia, China and Southwest Asia. The position is part of the Leverhulme-funded PERSIST Project, which aims to combine archaeology and ecological economies to shape broader debates about building a sustainable future. The researcher will work with Dr Adam S. Green in the Department of Archaeology, Dr Simon Mair in the Department of Environment & Geography and Professor Dan Lawrence in Durham University's Department of Archaeology. We are looking for someone with a strong understanding of South Asian or Chinese archaeology, as well as experience or interest in comparative and quantitative analysis of archaeological data.

Envisioning sustainable futures is difficult for researchers and policymakers because we rely overwhelmingly on the experience of modern societies, overlooking the vast diversity of economic systems in the past. Premodern Economics, Future Sustainability: Social Metabolism Across Deep Time (PERSIST) addresses this gap by systematically comparing how eight well-documented premodern societies used different materials—their "social metabolisms." PERSIST will compare social metabolisms to assess the degree to which each society managed resources, limited inequality, and endured over time. Rather than identifying single successes, it will trace variation across cases to reveal how sustainability was achieved in the past, offering new perspectives on how it can be achieved in the future.

Main purpose of the role

- To conduct research under the supervision of senior colleagues and to contribute to the production of research.
- To assist in the identification and development of potential areas of research and the development of proposals for independent or collaborative research projects.
- To seek, assemble, and collaborate in the quantitative analyses on archaeological evidence from the premodern economies of South Asia, China and Southwest Asia.
- To contribute to and support the development of Material Flow and Persistence Analyses of the collected data.
- To collaborate in the development of open-access comparative datasets
- To lead and contribute as a co-author to relevant publications

Key responsibilities

(Role holders will be required to undertake some or all of the duties below)

- To assemble archaeological data from key sites in South Asia, China and/or Southwest Asia that are conducive to quantitative analysis
- To collaborate in the development of appropriate workflows for analysis, including adapting material flow analysis to archaeological datasets
- To analyse and interpret research data, write up results, develop seminar and conference presentations, and otherwise contribute to the project's overall publication and dissemination strategy.
- To present project results in relevant workshops, symposiums and conferences.

- To co-organise project workshops and events
- To undertake appropriate organisational and administrative activities connected to the research project, including conference organisation, and the development of promotional or educational material including website maintenance and development.
- To develop and initiate collaborative working internally and externally, duties to include: the building of internal contacts and participation in internal networks; collaboration with colleagues on joint projects as required; participation in and identification of external networks in order to share information and identify potential opportunities for collaboration and possible sources of funding; attendance at and contribution to relevant meetings.
- To provide guidance to other staff and students, as required, as well as coordinating the work of small research teams.
- To conduct individual and collaborative research projects, duties to include: analysis and interpretation of research data; use of appropriate research techniques and methods; writing up of research results and dissemination through publications, seminar and conference presentations and public engagement and outreach activities; contributing to the identification of possible new areas of research.
- All staff have a statutory responsibility to take reasonable care of themselves, others, and the environment and to prevent harm by their acts or omissions. All staff are therefore required to adhere to the University's Health, Safety & Emergency Procedures.

The above list of duties is not exhaustive and is subject to change. The post holder may be required to undertake others duties within the scope and grading of the post.

Person specification

	Essential / Desirable
Qualifications	
Undergraduate or postgraduate degree in Archaeology or a closely related discipline (e.g., Anthropology)	Essential
PhD in Archaeology or a closely related discipline (e.g., Anthropology)	Essential
Knowledge	
Expert Knowledge of South Asian or Chinese archaeology	Essential
Knowledge of Comparative Archaeology	Essential
Knowledge of Quantitative or Computational Methods in Archaeology	Desirable
Knowledge of the archaeological and ethnographic literature relevant to analysing the life cycle of different materials and features	Desirable
Knowledge of Sustainability Studies and/or Inequality Studies	Desirable

Skills, abilities and competencies	
Highly developed communication skills to engage effectively with a wide ranging audience, both orally and in writing, using a range of media	Essential
Ability to write up research work for publication in high profile journals and engage in public dissemination	Essential
Ability to develop research objectives , projects and proposals for own and joint research, with the assistance of a mentor if required	Essential
Competency to conduct individual and collaborative research projects	Essential
Ability to identify sources of funding and contribute to the process of securing funds, with collaborators if required	Desirable
Competency to make presentations at conferences or exhibit work in other appropriate events	Essential
Ability to use specialist software including R, GIS and/ or similar computational tools	Desirable
Experience	
Experience of carrying out both independent and collaborative research	Essential
Experience working in multi-disciplinary projects	Desirable
Experience presenting research in academic conferences	Desirable
Experience co-organising academic workshops, forums or symposia	Desirable
Experience of writing up research work for publication	Desirable
Personal attributes	
Attention to detail and commitment to high quality	Essential
Collaborative ethos	Essential
Interest in and enthusiasm for the subject matter of the project(s)	Essential
Positive attitude to colleagues and students	Essential
Willingness to work proactively with colleagues in other work areas/institutions	Essential
Ability to plan and prioritise own work in order to meet deadlines, including using initiative to plan research programmes	Essential
Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills	Essential