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# Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship – BIOSEC Project

Faculty of Social Sciences,  
Department of Politics



## Overview

The role of BIOSEC post-doctoral fellowship arises from the award of a Euro 1.8 million European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Investigator Grant to Professor Rosaleen Duffy, Professor of International Politics in the Department of Politics. The grant is for a major research project on Biodiversity and Security: Understanding Environmental Crime, Illegal Wildlife Trade and Threat Finance, which started in September 2016 and runs until August 2020. As well as the PI, Rosaleen Duffy, it employs a Project Manager, two PhD students and two additional post-doctoral research fellows (on 3-year contracts).

The BIOSEC project aims to investigate why concerns about biodiversity losses, specifically linked to poaching and the illegal wildlife trade, are increasingly regarded as global security threats. The project currently involves extensive field research in the UK, the USA, Mexico, Indonesia, Mozambique and a range of countries within the European Union.

The post-doctoral fellow will be a core member of the BIOSEC team, based in the UK at the University of Sheffield.

## Person Specification

You should provide evidence in your application that you meet the following criteria. We will use a range of selection methods to measure your abilities in these areas including reviewing your online application, seeking references, inviting shortlisted candidates to interview and other forms of assessment action relevant to the post.

**Applicants should also submit an up to date CV, a covering letter explaining why they are suitable for the post and a research proposal (1000 words max) on how they intend to develop the research project.**

	Criteria	Essential	Desirable
1.	Have completed or be near to completing a PhD, or equivalent experience.	X	
2.	Experience of using quantitative research methods.		X
3.	Experience of qualitative in-depth interviewing, transcription, and coding	X	
4.	Word processing, internet and bibliographic search skills, and bibliographic software (e.g. Endnote).	X	
5.	Ability to work accurately to tight deadlines	X	
6.	Understanding of and ability to contribute to administrative duties.	X	
7.	Demonstrable ability to organise events, eg workshops	X	
8.	Effective communication skills, both written and verbal, and proof reading experience; experience of using social media	X	
9.	Relevant language skills, where applicable		X
10.	Effective communication skills, both written and verbal, report writing skills, experience of delivering presentations.	X	
11.	Ability to collaborate in writing research reports, lead on and contribute to published project outputs: eg journal articles	X	

12.	Well-developed networking, social media and information management skills	X	
13.	Ability to work closely with a team.	X	
14.	Ability to motivate staff.		X
15.	Ability to develop creative approaches to problem solving.		X
16.	Ability to analyse and critique complex information.	X	
17.	Ability to work to deadlines and possess good organisational skills.	X	
18.	Ability to work independently and as part of a team.	X	
19.	Ability to contribute to the planning and organising of the research programme and/or specific research events.	X	
20.	Ability to assess resource requirements and use resources effectively.	X	
21.	Experience of adapting own skills to new circumstances.	X	

## About the Team

The Department of Politics is one of the UK's most successful centres for teaching and research. Our reputation for world-leading research has been confirmed in successive exercises of the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) and Research Excellence Framework (REF). In RAE 2008 the Department was ranked joint first amongst all Politics departments in the UK, and in REF 2014 we cemented this position within our ranking in the top three departments in the UK as measured by grade point average of our research and the proportion of our research judged to be world leading and internationally excellent.

The Department has broad coverage of the discipline, with well-established strengths in the sub-fields of political economy, governance and public policy, political theory, political analysis, and development. Recent appointments have strengthened our existing profile in international relations and comparative politics. We are currently deepening our capacity in the area of research methods, broadly conceived. Geographically, our expertise ranges widely from Britain and Europe, South Asia and Africa, to Latin America, North America and the Caribbean, as well as covering global governance. Specific research themes are diverse and range from such issues as migration, political engagement, multi-level governance, global healthcare, and environmental politics, to Europeanization, animal rights, global justice, labour standards, and global finance and banking.

The Department is strongly committed to dialogue between the sub-disciplines and to pluralism in theory and method. The Department is a major stakeholder in two University research centres, the Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute (SPERI) and the recently established Sir Bernard Crick Centre for the Public Understanding of Politics. Inter-disciplinary links are encouraged within the Faculty of Social Sciences, such as through SPERI and the Sheffield International Development Network (SIDNET), or at the interface between politics and law, while links beyond the Faculty are maintained in such areas as food justice, healthcare and environmental issues.

Our website offers more information about all aspects of the Department's activity. Please see [www.sheffield.ac.uk/politics](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/politics) for more details.

## Job Description

You will work primarily with the Principal Investigator (Rosaleen Duffy) as well as with other project team members, on key project tasks, including: gathering and analysing relevant documents and data; organising and conducting interviews with key informants; analysing and interpreting data generated by the project; organising project-related events; and, securing effective dissemination of project outcomes to a wide range of academic and non-academic audiences. The successful applicant will have or be near to completing a doctoral degree in Politics, International Relations, Human Geography or Development Studies, preferably on a topic related to biodiversity conservation. Knowledge and experience of quantitative and/or qualitative research methods is essential, and experience of working with conservation organisations is desirable. You will be part of a prestigious European Research Council (ERC) funded research team, conducting cutting-edge research that has the potential to shape new understanding of the intersections between security and biodiversity conservation.

The fellowship is to conduct research on the intersections between illegal wildlife trade (IWT) and security in Asia. It will focus on how the environmental crime and security framing is influencing responses to consumption and use of wildlife products in 'end-user countries'. This work package will examine how state agencies, international organisations and NGOs are responding to the perceived and actual involvement of organised crime networks in smuggling to end-user markets; further this project will investigate how the focus on crime is shaping approaches to demand reduction efforts. These themes will be explored via specific case studies, examples might include (but are not limited to): China, Vietnam, Laos and/or Cambodia. The appointee will have considerable flexibility to develop the research to build on their own knowledge and skills- hence the country/species focus is not fixed.

The post-doc will involve undertaking literature reviews, documentary and web searches, as well as a substantial period of fieldwork in the relevant case study country/countries. The successful applicant will also organise a knowledge exchange workshop with key stakeholders and user groups during this fieldwork. At a minimum the post-doctoral researcher will develop at least two journal articles for leading journals, one conference paper and engage in communication, dissemination and impact activities.

Applicants should submit an up to date CV, a covering letter explaining why they are suitable for the post and a research proposal (1000 words max) on how they intend to develop the research project.

## Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Gather and analyse relevant documents and data.
- Organise and travel overseas to conduct interviews with key informants in the relevant field location(s), and then analysing and interpreting data generated by the project.
- Organise project-related events, such as seminars, workshops and conferences.
- Secure effective dissemination of project outcomes to a wide range of academic and non-academic audiences.
- Other forms of data collection and analysis as required by the needs of the project.
- Attend relevant methodological training.
- Work in collaboration with the PI, project team members, post-doctoral fellows and project PhD students.
- Contribute to project dissemination through pro-active use of social media.

- Write supporting documents to contribute and support the work of the PI and project team.
- Help prepare papers for journals / presentations either in-house or at national / international conferences or seminars to disseminate research findings.
- Present research outputs, including drafting academic publications or parts thereof, for example at conferences, seminars and as posters.
- Contribute to the intellectual life of the Department of Politics, the Sheffield Institute for International Development, the Faculty of Social Sciences and the wider University community through attendance at to research seminars, Department seminars, etc.
- Carry out administrative duties as requested.
- To deal with problems that may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines.
- Any other duties, commensurate with the grade of the post.

## Reward Package

**Terms and conditions of employment:** Will be those for Grade 7 staff.

**Salary for this grade:** £30,688 - £38,833 per annum.

**This post is fixed-term** for 12 months with a start date of 1 October 2018, or as soon as possible thereafter (but not later than 1 January 2019).

### **This post is full-time:**

This role has been identified as a full-time post, but we are committed to exploring flexible working opportunities with our staff which benefit both the individual and the University (See [www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/guidance/flexible/arrangements](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/guidance/flexible/arrangements)). Therefore, we would consider flexible delivery of the role subject to meeting the business needs of the post. If you wish to explore flexible working opportunities in relation to this post, we encourage you to call or email the departmental contact listed below.

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If you join the University you will have access to a Total Reward Package that includes a competitive salary, a generous Pension Scheme and annual leave entitlement, as well as access to a range of learning and development courses to support your personal and professional development. You will have access to your own personalised portal where you can also access a comprehensive selection of benefits and offers to suit your changing lifestyle needs, for example financial wellbeing, travel options, shopping and cinema discounts.



To find out more visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/thedeal](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/thedeal)

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We are committed to making the University a remarkable place to work and we support this through a number of sector leading services such as Juice.

Our innovative Health and Wellbeing service, Juice, encourages and supports staff to maintain their own positive health and wellbeing through a broad range of inclusive services and activities.



To find out more visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/juice](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/juice)

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We are also proud of our award-winning equality and diversity action which enhances working life for all. 92% of staff tell us they are treated with fairness and respect (staff survey 2016) [www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/equality](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/equality)

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We are the only university to feature in the Sunday Times 100 Best Not-for-Profit organisations to work for 2018. In our staff survey (2016) 94% of staff said they were proud to work for the University and 89% of our staff would recommend the University as an excellent place to work. To find out more about what it's like to work here visit [remarkable.group.shef.ac.uk](http://remarkable.group.shef.ac.uk)

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## Selection – Next Steps

**Closing date:** For details of the closing date please view this post on our web pages at [www.sheffield.ac.uk/jobs](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/jobs)

Following the closing date, we will contact you by email to let you know whether or not you have been shortlisted to participate in the next stage of the selection process. Please note that due to the large number of applications that we receive, it may take up to two working weeks following the closing date before the recruiting department will be able to contact you.

It is anticipated that interviews and other selection action will be held week commencing **2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018**. Full details will be provided to invited candidates.

For more information on our application and recruitment processes visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/jobs/info](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/jobs/info)

## Informal enquiries

For informal enquiries about this job and the recruiting department, contact, the PI Professor Rosaleen Duffy on [r.v.duffy@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:r.v.duffy@sheffield.ac.uk)

For administration queries and details on the application process, contact BIOSEC project manager Ruth Wilson, [ruth.wilson@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:ruth.wilson@sheffield.ac.uk) or Sarah Beddow on [s.k.beddow@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:s.k.beddow@sheffield.ac.uk)

For all online application system queries and support, visit: [www.sheffield.ac.uk/jobs/applying](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/jobs/applying)

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