

JOB DESCRIPTION

Vacancy reference:	SRF17387
Post Title:	Post-doctoral Research Assistant
Grade:	Grade 6
School/Department:	Arts and Communication Design / Film Theatre & Television
Reports to:	Prof. Jonathan Bignell
Responsible for:	n/a

Purpose

The post holder will conduct research into Harold Pinter's work for television, cinema and radio, as part of the team working on the research project "Pinter Histories and Legacies".

Main duties and responsibilities

Led by Dr Mark Taylor-Batty (Leeds), with co-investigators Professor Jonathan Bignell (Reading) and Professor Graham Saunders (Birmingham), and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the project "Pinter Histories and Legacies: The Impact of Harold Pinter's Work on the Development of British Stage and Screen" aims to trace, chart, archive and contextualise Harold Pinter's theatre, cinema, television and radio work in the UK since 1957 and through to 2017.

Based at the University of Reading, you will conduct your own research on chosen areas of Harold Pinter's work that will be focused through visits to archives and libraries in the UK. You will be involved in the compilation of database entries, the selection and digitisation of materials, interviewing key individuals who were involved with aspects of producing Pinter's work and the organising of knowledge transfer events including symposia / conferences and public events, and the production of published outputs (digital and in print).

Main duties will include:

- Working with and in support of Prof. Jonathan Bignell to ensure that the television, cinema and radio components of the "Pinter Histories and Legacies" project are successfully completed;
- Travelling to libraries and archives in the UK and US to locate materials pertinent to the project's objectives, and arranging digitisation where permissible and appropriate for addition to the project database;
- Generating and pursuing original research ideas that are relevant to the project;
- Compiling and checking entries in the project database in relation predominantly to Pinter's television, cinema and radio output;
- Conducting, recording and where appropriate transcribing interviews with practitioners;
- Assisting the project investigators in the organisation of conferences and symposia;
- Communicating or presenting research results through publication or other recognised forms of output;

- Preparing papers for publication in leading international journals and independently writing reports;
- Collaborate in the editing of an edited collection of research outputs pertaining to the project;
- Working both independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers, engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues as appropriate;
- Contributing to the research culture of the Department and School, where appropriate;
- Attending national / international symposia /conferences that are relevant to the project to disseminate your research and to publicize the work of the project

Supervision received

The post will be located in the Department of Film, Theatre & Television. This post reports to Professor Jonathan Bignell, who will give guidance and direction on the objectives of the "Pinter Histories and Legacies" project, and support for carrying out the duties described above. The post holder will be allocated a Mentor from the Department and will be expected to participate in its academic culture.

Supervision given

None.

Contact

The post holder will work closely with his/her line manager, Prof. Jonathan Bignell. He/she will have regular contact with the Principal Investigator of the "Pinter Histories and Legacies" research project, Dr Mark Taylor-Batty, the project Co-Investigator Prof. Graham Saunders, and two Postdoctoral Researchers working with them at the universities of Leeds and Birmingham respectively. The post holder will also have contact with staff responsible for the design and implementation of the project database. Other contacts may include staff at the BBC Written Archives Centre, British Film Institute, and other resource holders. The post holder will have contacts with creative professionals relevant to research into Pinter's television, radio and film work.

Terms and conditions

This is a full-time post. Occasional input outside normal hours may be required, e.g. attending academic conferences, travel to libraries and archives, and meetings required for the effective management of the research team.

This document outlines the duties required for the time being of the post to indicate the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list and the line manager may vary duties from time to time which do not change the general character of the job or the level of responsibility entailed.

Date assessed: February 2017

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title	School/Department
Postdoctoral Researcher	Arts and Communication Design / Film, Theatre & Television

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Skills Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders. • Confidence in using social media, working with a database, and handling the technology required for conducting interviews. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills in database usage, website management, eBook technologies.
Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD awarded or completed concerning an aspect of British post-war television, radio or cinema, or a closely allied discipline or topic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A track record of successful, high quality, publications on relevant television, radio or cinema topics
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant aspects of British post-war television drama, radio or cinema. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harold Pinter's television, cinema, radio and theatre work

Relevant Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated experience of conducting research at postgraduate level. • A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of working with archival materials. • Experience organizing symposia, conferences or public events
Disposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to manage completing demands and meet tight deadlines. • A strong commitment to continuous professional development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to collaborative academic research.

Completed by: Prof. Jonathan Bignell	Date: February 2017
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