



Chair in Human Geography

College of Science and Engineering

Department of Geography

To commence 1 October 2013

Ref: SEN00348

At Leicester we're going places. Ranked in the top 20 universities in Britain our aim is to climb further. A commitment to high quality fused with an inclusive academic culture is our hallmark and led the Times Higher Education to describe us as "elite without being elitist".

In order to enhance our international research standing, we seek to appoint a Professor to complement and extend the research activities of the Human Geography Research Group in the Department of Geography at the University of Leicester.

You will have an outstanding academic record in a relevant area of Human Geography as evidenced by internationally excellent 4* (or potential 4*) journal publications and significant funding to support your research. You will also be expected to deliver leading-edge research, be able to demonstrate evidence of academic leadership, and have a commitment to and evidence of excellence in teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

The University

There's never been a more exciting time to join us. At the University of Leicester we are enjoying research success on a world stage and gathering the awards and plaudits to match.

We are described as "elite without being elitist". We are proud to be elite. But we are at least as proud to be an inclusive and progressive university. This commitment to high quality, an inclusive academic culture and belief in the synergy of teaching and research are our hallmarks. We believe that teaching is inspirational when delivered by passionate scholars engaged in world-changing research that is delivered in an academic community that includes postgraduate as well as undergraduate students.

Our approach to research yields great rewards. Our research impact, measured by citations per academic, is ranked in the UK top 10. Our success in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise saw Quality Related research income rise by 18% placing us firmly amongst Britain's top 20 research universities by this measure. The RAE also revealed that Leicester is home to Britain's top-rated research department – Museum Studies – which has the highest concentration of world class research of any department of any discipline in the UK.

We believe that teaching and research are synergistic, and the National Student Survey demonstrates that the quality of our teaching is amongst the highest in the country. Since the launch of the survey in 2005, Leicester has consistently featured amongst the top-10 universities in England for student satisfaction. The Sunday Times described Leicester as "top... amongst mainstream multi-faculty universities for student satisfaction".

Currently a University of 23,000 students, with a turnover in excess of £260m and 3,300 colleagues, our future is bright. Our Strategic Vision describes our plans to invest a billion pounds in our estate as we transform our campus. Already consistently ranked in the top-20 universities in Britain, by 2015 we aim to rise further to become top-10.

Leicester is the most inclusive of Britain's top-20 universities with the greatest proportions of students from under-represented groups.

As a group of talented individuals we are more diverse than ever and stronger for it. At Leicester we are proud of our distinct approach, our achievements and our ambitious plans. If you share our approach join us.

Please see <http://www2.le.ac.uk/about/facts> for more information about the University.

We are proud holders of the Athena Swan Bronze Award which recognises and celebrates good practice for employment in science, engineering and technology (SET) in higher education and research. The award reflects our commitment to the advancement and promotion of diversity and equality. We are actively seeking Silver and Gold awards.

<http://www.athenaswan.org.uk/html/athena-swan/>

College of Science and Engineering

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of College: Professor Martin Barstow, BA PhD CSci CPhys F.InstP FRAS

This is an exciting time to join a dynamic new college and contribute to its development.

The College has around 440 staff, 2000 undergraduate and 900 postgraduate students, with an annual turnover of £40M. The new College is creating the academic and physical environment to enable scientists and engineers to work together across traditional boundaries to address some of the grand research challenges and to engage with increasing effectiveness with business and industrial partners.

The College is made up of seven research-led departments: Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, Geography, Geology, Mathematics, and Physics and Astronomy. Together, these departments teach approximately 20% of the University's campus based undergraduate students. Our students undertake diverse programmes of study, from human geography, through a range of laboratory-based subjects including engineering. Our departments have contributed to the University's ascent through national league tables with consistently excellent scores in the National Student Survey and a very strong performance in the 2008 RAE. Our departments also generate more than a third of the University's research income.

Our College has a reputation for research of international quality and is home to several specialist multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and intra-disciplinary research centres. These centres included Space Research, Forensic Science, Landscape and Climate Research, Mathematical / Computational Modelling, Systems Neuroscience, Chemical Biology, Materials Technology and Advanced Microscopy. Researchers within the College have international reputations and collaborate with esteemed colleagues throughout the world, making it an exciting environment for both teaching and research.

The College has led the development of High Performance Computing within the University culminating in the establishment of a dedicated centrally-funded HPC unit and the installation of the ALICE state-of-the-art £2M, 2048 processor super-computer. ALICE is freely available to all University staff for their research projects. The University has recently become host to one of the HPC centres forming the DiRAC national computing facility for particle physics, astronomy and cosmology.

Our students benefit from following best practice and working alongside leaders in their fields. Approximately a quarter of our undergraduate students go on to study for a higher degree. Our graduates are much sought after by employers – either by going directly into employment in the broad area of their degree subject, or pursuing successful careers in diverse areas such as education, commerce, IT and the public sector.

The Department of Geography

The Department of Geography at Leicester provides a vibrant and stimulating research environment, with a substantial group of PhD students, post-doctoral researchers and academics studying in the following areas:

- Human Geography, with a focus on community and everyday life, spatial politics of change, emotions and feelings, digital geographies and environmental geographies.
- Geographical Information Science and Remote Sensing
- Physical Geography with a focus on global environmental change and carbon cycling

In this year's Guardian University Guide the Department was ranked 5th best in the country, and scored 1st place for student feedback. A total of 90% of its research was graded as international quality in the Research Assessment Exercise 2008.

The Department has ca. 350 undergraduates with a further 60 MSc students and 63 PhD students. A number of single subject and joint undergraduate degree schemes are offered with opportunities to study abroad and to enable students to tailor their courses to suit their skills, interests and career goals.

- The Department also runs five taught MSc programmes:
- Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
- Environmental Informatics (EI)
- Global Environmental Change (GEC)
- Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) (taught by Human Geographers)
- MRes in Geography (Human and Physical geography)

We also contribute to MA courses in Urban History, and Landscape Studies. Further details of our undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programmes can be found at <http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/geography>

The Human Geography Group

The Human Geography group (Pickerill, Kraftl, Brown, Coles, Madge, Upton, Dickinson, Bennett, Phillips) carry out research within four themes: Geographies of emotion and feeling; Geographies of communities and the everyday; Spatial politics of change; and, Environmental geographies. Research is funded from several sources, including the ESRC, British Academy, AHRC, ERC, EPSRC, DEFRA and the Leverhulme Trust. We also have many research assistants, associates and postgraduate researchers. These themes are detailed below:

Geographies of emotion and feeling: Many of us are interested in the ways in which emotions, feelings and affect shape, and are shaped by, our encounters with different spaces and places. We have advanced methodological and conceptual approaches to understanding the geographies of emotion and feeling. For example, several of us are interested in the ways that people feel about home-spaces, education spaces, and activist spaces. Several of us examine how emotions, feeling and affects produce forms of belonging, identity and exclusion. Others are interested in deathscapes

and the complex emotions involved with death, bereavement and living on. We are also examining the importance of hope and geographies of the future.

Geographies of communities and the everyday: There is a tension in geography between studying extraordinary spaces and those of the everyday. In other words, should we be most concerned with unusual spaces or the spaces where most things happen? For many of us it is important to explore the ordinary, the provincial, marginal, suburbs and potentially mundane. It is in these spaces where communities live, where convivial and new spatial and social formations of multiculturalism develop. Often it is in apparently everyday places that alternatives emerge, resilience is built, and hope forms. Thus we are exploring young people's everyday lives, the role of social media in the higher education landscape, new forms and spatialities of education, multiculturalism, and rural communities' understandings of climate change – everyday spaces and people engaging in difficult, different and challenging issues.

Spatial politics of change: There is a politics to much of what we do, but this politics is also spatial. Thus the ways in which we can understand capitalism, markets and diverse economies is shaped not just by political choices or preferences for certain economic systems, but by the ways in which such systems seek to transgress or assert the importance of certain places above or below others. Likewise it is necessary to explore the politics of activism and protest in context of its geography – how solidarity is expressed across space, how commons or autonomy can be built and shared, or how indigenous activism asserts the importance of particular places while simultaneously identifying international commonalities. Thus a spatial politics of change emerges which draws upon postcolonial interventions, political ecology, transitions approaches, and diverse understandings of identities (gender, sexuality, class etc). We use a variety of these approaches to explore social, environmental and political activism, state power, and governance and regulations across many different countries and political contexts. But politics is also played out in and through the body, in intensely embodied and emotional ways, so various scales of understanding are used in our analyses.

Environmental geographies: Many of us are concerned with the environment – how it is understood, how it can be better protected, the implications of climate change and how resources are managed and used. We also view environmental issues as particularly spatial, not just that the environment itself is composed of different landscapes, places and resources, but that an understanding of how ecosystems connect and interact, energy is produced, or environmental knowledges constructed and practiced, require a geographical approach to be understood fully. Thus, without a holistic spatial approach, the potential of ecosystems services is missed, and trying to examine the role of indigenous environmental knowledge without understanding colonial politics and history, identity, economic disparities and particular places risks missing much of importance. It is these complex interconnections, dimensions and spatial dynamics that criss-cross much of our diverse work on environmental geographies.

The Human Geography group is a vibrant and successful team. In the last 12 months we have had significant grant successes, for example, from The Leverhulme Trust, ESRC, Leicester City Council, Darwin Initiative and an HEA doctoral studentship. We produce high quality and diverse publications, expanding into strong social media presence. Many of us are journal editors or sit on editorial boards. Leicester geographers are routinely invited to present papers overseas, to take up visiting positions, and be external examiners. The Group is highly collegiate and supportive: we have increasingly chosen to collaborate as teams in terms of articles published (Brown, Upton, Kraftl and Pickerill, *Environment and Planning A*, Barker and Pickerill, *Antipode*, Madge and Gabriel, *Antipode*), grant applications, and a new edited book. We regularly host collaborative workshops, including a one day workshop on Protest Camps, and a De/Centering Geographies of Education event held with Loughborough. We continue to explore new ways to support and encourage research and impact initiatives – most recently by securing an annual Human Geography Research Fund which supports impact activities, and our new Qualitative Digital Methods lab.

Departmental Facilities

We are housed in one building on the main campus adjacent to the other departments in the College of Science and Engineering. Research and Teaching are supported by high-quality facilities covering all of the sub-disciplines in the department. Specifically, for human geography the facilities include:

- A new Human Geography Qualitative Digital Methods Lab (for staff and postgraduates)
- Access to the new University High Performance Computing Facility (ALICE);
- A dedicated remote sensing/GIS computer laboratory and a LINUX cluster enabling parallel processing;
- Three computer laboratories: an undergraduate laboratory with 60 PCs networked within the University, a laboratory dedicated to the MSc courses, and a staff and postgraduate computing laboratory;
- A 3D stereo Virtual Reality Theatre, which is being used to work with geospatial technologies including GIS, Remote Sensing, and Surveying;
- A Geospatial Equipment Pool comprising: field computers, GPS, GPS-enabled smartphones, digital cameras, data loggers and environmental temperature and soil moisture sensors, to allow research students and staff to investigate spatio-temporal patterns of variability in environmental variables;
- A Cartographic Unit, which provides a high quality mapping and design service to the Department;
- Student Study area and Map Library, with over 100,000 accessions, most of which are on a computer query-and-loan data base (this includes aerial photographs and atlases).

Your Role

You will be responsible to the Head of the Department of Geography and will undertake research, teaching, administration and other activities supporting the work of the Department and developing and enhancing its reputation, both internal and external to the University. You will be a scholar with an established international reputation for research. Your specialisation should complement or extend the Department's current existing interests in Human Geography. Key qualities include; a highly developed understanding of the field and the research opportunities that it presents, a strong developmental commitment to mentoring and nurturing the research aspirations of staff, as well as a commitment to excellent teaching.

The Department would particularly welcome applications from human geographers interested in work which overlaps with one or more of our four existing research themes, listed above.

Principal Accountabilities

As a member of a leading UK department in Human Geography it is expected that you will have a strong commitment to developing both the theoretical underpinnings and practical applications of the field.

Research

- To establish a sound research base within the Department in order to pursue individual and collaborative research of high quality, consistent with making a full active research contribution to the Department in line with the departmental objective of enhancing the proportion of 4* quality research outputs for the next Research Excellence Framework.

- A strong background in work that overlaps with our existing research themes.
- To secure, in collaboration with colleagues as appropriate, external funding through research grants or contracts to support a developing research agenda.
- To manage research projects within the University, including their financial control and to supervise post-doctoral research assistants, research students, technical and other support staff engaged in the research.
- To publish international quality research outcomes in appropriate peer-reviewed journals of international standing; and to publish and disseminate the results of research and scholarship in other outlets.
- To lead and contribute to the development of Human Geography Research through scholarly activities, research proposals, co-supervised PhD student projects and other appropriate means.
- To consider the value of research achievements within their potential political, social or economic context to achieve high research impact where appropriate.
- To take appropriate action to protect such research results by patent application or copyright to the potential benefit of the University where appropriate, with the assistance of the University's Research and Business Development Office.
- Where appropriate and expedient, to secure contract work to the benefit of (your) research activity and to provide resources to underpin this activity.
- To identify and explore with the Department and the University any entrepreneurial opportunities which may arise and to ensure that intellectual property rights are protected for the benefit of the University.
- To ensure that all research activities undertaken are in compliance with the 'Research Code of Conduct' operated by the University.
- Consistent with the resources available and departmental and other obligations, to attend and present research findings and papers at academic and professional conferences, and to contribute to the external visibility of the department.
- To contribute fully to the research plans developed by the Department, including providing such information as may be required by the Department to monitor the progress of each member of staff's research programme and to support the Department fully in the preparation of material required for the Research Excellence Framework or similar activities.

Teaching

- To strive to continuously improve the quality of teaching and learning and contribute to providing an excellent student experience.
- To maintain a broad knowledge of up-to-date research and scholarship in relevant fields to ensure that teaching meets the standards expected within a research-led University.
- To co-operate with colleagues in the continuous review and development of the curriculum and in the design and launch of new degrees or other academic awards where appropriate.
- To design, and be responsible for, the contents of specific areas of teaching and learning within the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.
- To give lectures, seminars, tutorials and other classes as appropriate in support of the required teaching obligations and to supervise laboratory work by undergraduate and postgraduate students, as appropriate.

- To supervise undergraduate, and where appropriate postgraduate, project work.
- To undertake academic duties (i.e. setting examination questions, marking, invigilation, and pastoral support of students) required to sustain the delivery of high quality teaching.
- To support and comply with the University and departmental teaching quality assurance standards and procedures including the provision of such information as may be required by the Department or by the University.

Administration and Other Activities

- To undertake such specific departmental roles and management functions as may be reasonably required by the Head of Department (or such other person to whom responsibility may have been delegated).
- To attend departmental meetings and to participate in other committees and working groups within the department, the College and the University to which appointed or elected.
- To participate in relevant professional activities.
- To engage in continuous professional development, for example through participation in relevant staff development programmes.
- To undertake, subject to the agreement of the Head of Department and the University as appropriate, external commitments which reflect well upon and enhance the reputation of the University.
- To ensure compliance with health and safety requirements in all aspects of work.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- Outstanding record of research achievement in Human Geography evidenced by an established international reputation through publication of (or potential for) 4* papers.*
- Evidence of academic leadership, both with regard to research direction and via a demonstrated commitment to mentoring and nurturing the research aspirations of staff.*

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Evidence of ability to initiate, develop and deliver high quality research and to publish in leading journals or book publishers of comparable quality.*
- Ability to offer a leadership role in expanding and developing existing networks for research with colleagues working in cognate areas within the Department and the University, and in the UK and other countries.
- Proven track record of and ability to generate external funding through research grants, contracts and other sources to support research programmes.*
- Demonstrable ability and willingness to work in intra- and inter-disciplinary teams and explore novel avenues of scholarship.*

- Substantial experience of high-quality teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, including in lectures, tutorials and seminars.
- Proven track record in recruiting and supervising research postgraduate students.
- Ability to mentor junior colleagues and provide academic leadership in both research and teaching.
- Evidence of having built, and continuing to build, networks and relationships at a national or international level.
- Good effective communication (oral and written) skills, presentation and training skills.
- Good interpersonal skills.

(* Criteria to be used in shortlisting candidates for interview)

Informal Enquiries

Informal enquiries are welcome and should be made to the Professor Susan Page, Head of Department on hodgeog@le.ac.uk/0116 252 3854, or Dr Jenny Pickerill on j.pickerill@le.ac.uk/0116 252 3836.

Applications

For further information and to apply on-line, please visit our website: www.le.ac.uk/joinus

We use a web based, e-recruitment system, which allows you to apply on-line. Please upload a copy of your CV and a covering letter including the names and addresses of three referees. One of your referees should be your current or most recent employer.

The closing date for this post is midnight on 14 May 2013.

Interviews are anticipated to be held on 6 June 2013.