



School of Humanities and Social Sciences

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**Research Assistant – *Conflict in Cities and the Contested State*  
Department of Politics, School of Humanities and Social Sciences  
University of Exeter**

**FURTHER PARTICULARS**

**Dates**

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences post is based in Jerusalem and is available from **1<sup>st</sup> October 2009**. The final date for applications to be received is **14<sup>th</sup> June 2009**. Interviews will take place in Jerusalem on **25<sup>th</sup> June 2009**.

**Job Description**

*Conflict in Cities and the Contested State*: Research Assistant

The Department of Politics at Exeter is seeking to appoint a graduate with suitable qualifications in the social sciences to carry out research for Professor Michael Dumper. The Research Assistant will conduct some original research, and will assist in organising fieldwork and the running of workshops and seminars in Jerusalem.

This work will be part of a 5 year project entitled: "*Conflict in Cities and the Contested State: Everyday life and the possibilities for transformation in Belfast, Jerusalem and other divided cities*". Starting in October 2009, the project focuses on divided cities as key sites in territorial conflicts over state and national identities, cultures and borders.

The research objectives are to analyse how divided cities in Europe and the Middle East have been shaped by ethnic, religious and national conflicts, and conversely, how such cities can absorb, resist and potentially play a role in transforming the territorial conflicts which pervade and surround them. The project seeks to understand the cities as arenas of intensified ethno-national conflicts, particularly with respect to the role that architecture and the urban fabric play as a setting and background for everyday activities and events. Phenomena related to creating, maintaining, crossing, transcending or ignoring ethnic and territorial borders, both physical and symbolic, are central to the study.

The main research sites are Belfast and Jerusalem, two very distinctive cities - one firmly embedded in the West and one central to the Middle East - and both at different stages of national conflict and peace-building. A team of researchers from three UK universities, Cambridge, Exeter and Queen's Belfast, will lead the multi-disciplinary initiative that includes: architecture, urban studies, politics, geography and sociology. Teams reflecting the divisions being researched will carry out work *in situ* in Belfast and Jerusalem. Seven PhD students are attached to the programme and, in conjunction with an international network of academics and practitioners cooperating with the project, will consider other divided cities, such as Nicosia, Mostar, Berlin, Brussels, Beirut, Tripoli and Kirkuk. Within this overall project framework a contextual and comparative approach will be developed to explore wider issues of urban conflict and the possibilities for resolution.

*Conflict in Cities and the Contested State* is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council of Great Britain. The project leaders are:

- Dr Wendy Pullan, Architecture, University of Cambridge
- Professor James Anderson, Geography, Queens University Belfast
- Professor Mick Dumper, Politics, University of Exeter
- Professor Liam O'Dowd, Sociology, Queen's University Belfast

For further information please see the website: [www.conflictincities.org](http://www.conflictincities.org)

### **Main duties**

The post-holder will work under and assist Professor Michael Dumper in a variety of ways:

- Undertake research and data-collection in Jerusalem and area on the modules allocated to Professor Dumper .
- Contribute to writing research reports and journal articles
- Edit and prepare material for publication or presentation, including visuals and powerpoint.
- Contribute to the development of multi-disciplinary research methods
- Assist in the administration of the project, organizing of project management meetings, project workshops, graduate workshops and panels of an international conference
- Liaise with project investigators, project partners and researchers

The Research Assistant will be expected to have some previous knowledge of urban studies research, preferably in Jerusalem or related parts of the Middle East, and have experience in research methodology to ensure that they are able to balance the demands of their research and administrative duties and to meet deadlines.

Other duties arising during the course of the project will be allocated as appropriate.

The candidate will live in Jerusalem and carry out fieldwork in the city. Some work at home will be necessary and candidates will need access to their own computing facilities. The post will be part-time for two years; some flexibility may be possible. The Research Assistant will be expected to cooperate with the Research Assistant appointed by Dr Wendy Pullan, University of Cambridge.

## Person Specification

Qualifications, experience and skills sought:

- Degree in a relevant social science discipline or architecture and urban studies.
- Ability to communicate effectively in writing and orally in Arabic and English
- Ability to research in libraries, archives, internet including the monitoring of a range of sites
- Good organisational and management skills
- Evidence of some experience of fieldwork research, preferably in Jerusalem
- Skills in qualitative methods (including good interviewing technique) and data analysis
- Capacity to contribute effectively to the project and workshops of the research project
- Knowledge of Hebrew would be an advantage.

## Terms and conditions

**Hours:** This is a part-time post for 18.5 hours per week and is available for a fixed term of two years, subject to successful completion of an initial probation period.

**Start:** The successful candidate will take up appointment from 1 October 2009

**Position:** The appointment will be at Research Assistant level (E23 - E24 on the University's pay scale)

**Salary:** The current full-time equivalent salary is £24,654 - £25,480 pro rata (or £12,327 - £12,740 per annum over two years part-time)

**Taxes:** All local taxes, pensions and insurance will be the appointee's responsibility

**Expenses:** Expenses relating to local travel and additional costs relevant to the research (photocopying, entry fees, stationary, software etc.) will be reimbursed.

## Application procedure

Applications for the studentships are to be sent to Professor Dumper via Mary Carter (mary.d.carter@exeter.ac.uk) and should include:

- a recent CV
- a sample of written work; an essay or a chapter from a dissertation
- a research proposal for one of the Jerusalem research modules outlined on the website (max 1000 words)
- names, email address and telephone numbers of two academic referees
- a covering letter stating briefly why you think you would be suitable for this post

The deadline for applications is **14<sup>th</sup> June 2009**. Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting [mick.dumper@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:mick.dumper@exeter.ac.uk). Interviews will take place in Jerusalem on **25<sup>th</sup> June 2009** at a place to be confirmed.

The interviews will be held in conjunction with interviews for a parallel post in this project but responsible to Dr Wendy Pullan of the University of Cambridge. (Enquiries: [wap10@cam.ac.uk](mailto:wap10@cam.ac.uk)). Applicants may wish to check their suitability for the Cambridge post as well.

### **Short-listing Information**

In the interest of economy, the University does not normally write to applicants who are not short-listed for interview. Consequently, if you have not heard further from us within 10 days of the advertised closing date, please assume that you have been unsuccessful on this occasion.

### **Equal Opportunities**

The University is committed to a comprehensive policy of equal opportunities in employment in which individuals are selected and treated solely on the basis of their relevant merits and abilities and are given equal opportunities within the University.

In making this appointment, the University Council reserves the right to consider persons other than those who have submitted applications by the closing date.

### **Data Protection Act (1998)**

The information contained within your application is being requested to enable the University to make employment decisions and meet statutory obligations. Any information provided to the University in this context will be treated confidentially and used only by manager(s), member of the University, Personnel, Superannuation and Payroll during the course of your employment. Where the application relates to a post which is externally funded this information may be passed onto the relevant funding body.