

JOB DESCRIPTION TEMPLATE FOR A POSTDOCTORAL VISITOR AT YORK UNIVERSITY

Job Information	
Position Title	Postdoctoral Fellow in Innovation & Rentiership
Category	Postdoctoral Visitor
Supervisor(s)	Prof Kean Birch
Unit	Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change
Location	Keele Campus, York University, Toronto (or remote in Canada)
Background	
<p>I am seeking a Postdoctoral Fellow to work with me on a SSHRC-funded project titled "From Entrepreneurship to Rentiership? The Changing Dynamics of Innovation in Technoscientific Capitalism". The project will examine the extent to which contemporary capitalism is characterized by destructive, predatory, captured, monopolistic, and unequal forms of <i>rentiership</i>. It is motivated by the increasing unease expressed by academics, politicians, businesspeople, and activists from across the political spectrum with the problematic effects emerging in contemporary, technoscientific capitalism, especially the growing trend towards rentiership as opposed to entrepreneurship. Rentiership implies a shift from the construction of value through the sale of products and services to the capture of value from the ownership of and control over the conditions of production (e.g. land, money, knowledge, natural resources, etc.). In the former, profits come from competing to sell products and services; while in the latter, rents come from the ability to charge fees for access to productive assets like land, money, networks, personal property, knowledge, etc. The project's objectives are: (1) explore the prevalence of and differences in rentiership in contemporary technoscientific capitalism; (2) examine the empirical manifestations of different forms of rentiership (e.g. government fiat, monopoly, market control) in technoscientific capitalism; (3) unpack the implications of rentiership for innovation and financial strategies in technoscientific capitalism; and (4) outline the impacts of rentiership on research and innovation policy and policy-making in technoscientific capitalist countries.</p>	
Overall Purpose of Postdoctoral Position	
<p>As a researcher with the project, in collaboration and with the guidance of the supervisor, and within the bounds of the project mandate, the Postdoctoral Fellow will undertake research leading to publication in leading international journals. More specifically, the Postdoctoral Fellow in Innovation and Rentiership will be responsible for the following tasks and activities: literature reviews; primary and secondary data collection; interviewing informants; statistical analysis; presenting research; writing up research for publication; writing up research for policy and stakeholder audiences; developing and maintaining a project website and social media presence (e.g. Twitter); helping to organize events; and other activities as required.</p>	
Key Responsibilities	
<p>The Postdoctoral Fellowship will have the following responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake literature reviews, covering fields like STS, economic geography, economic sociology, and organization studies. • Undertake desk-based secondary data collection relating to the digital technology sector; • Travel to undertake primary and secondary data collection (if necessary); • Interviewing business, financial, and policy elites; • Statistical analysis of financial data; • Data analysis using qualitative and quantitative software programs (e.g. NVivo, SPSS, Excel); • Presenting research at international conferences and other events; • Writing up research for publication in leading international journals (and publishers) (e.g. STHV, SER, JCE, RIPE, NPE, etc.); • Writing up research for policy and stakeholder audiences; • Developing and maintaining a project website and social media presence (e.g. Twitter); 	

- Helping to organize events;
- Other activities as required.

Skills and Qualifications

Educational Qualifications	Applicants must have completed all requirements for a PhD by 1 July 2022.
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Training/Experience Required	<p>The applicant must have the following experience/training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD and research background in science & technology studies, economic geography, economic sociology, and/or organization studies; • Undertaken primary data collection outside of Canada (e.g. interviewing informants); • Comfortable doing qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, especially on financial topics; • Strong theoretical interest in areas relating to digital sector/digital capitalism (and, if possible, interest in assetization and rentiership); • Publication in international social science journals in science & technology studies, economic geography, economic sociology, and/or organization studies.
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Terms and Conditions

This postdoctoral position based in Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change will be 6-months in length (1 August 2022 – 31 January 2023). Unfortunately, there is no possibility of renewal as the research grant funding the position comes to an end in March 2023. Work can be undertaken remotely, but the person will need to be based in Canada.

Salary: minimum annual salary of \$50,000 + benefits (pro-rated to 6-months)

How to Apply

To apply for this position, please submit the following documents:

- A cover letter outlining how your experience matches the requirements (2-page max);
- A detailed and up to date CV (please highlight your publications);
- Details of two referees, including their email addresses.

Please submit all documents by email to Kean Birch at kean@yorku.ca by 3 June 2022. Qualified applicants will be invited for an interview to be conducted by Skype/Zoom. Only those applicants selected for interview will be contacted.