

Job Information	
Position Title	Postdoctoral Visitor in Metadata & Research Evaluation
Category	Postdoctoral Visitor
Supervisor(s)	Professor Kean Birch
Unit	Institute for Technoscience & Society
Location	Keele/Markham Campus, York University, Toronto (or remote in Ontario)
Background	
<p>Professor Kean Birch is seeking to recruit a Postdoctoral Visitor (PDV) to work on an international project for two-and-half years. The project title is “Between Economy and Democracy: Reorganizing Research Evaluation through Metadata in the Digital Era” and is funded by the Open Research Area 8 initiative through SSHRC (Canada), ESRC (UK), ANR (France), and DFG (Germany). The PDV will be working directly for Prof Birch on the Canadian part of the project but will also work with the other project partners.</p> <p>This project is a comparative study of the roles and relevance of open versus commercial digital research information infrastructures in practices of research evaluation and their governance. The project pursues the following core research question: How do open and commercial digital research information infrastructures reorganize research evaluation practices in the field of tension between economy and democracy?</p> <p>More specifically, it examines: (i) the motivations and aspirations underlying the development of commercial versus open digital research information infrastructures shaping metadata and data analytic functionalities; (ii) how commercial and open digital research information infrastructures, and the metadata and analytics they provide, feed into different national, organizational, and disciplinary research evaluation processes and with what effects; and (iii) how different open and commercial research information infrastructure providers are entangled with each other and their users.</p>	
Overall Purpose of Postdoctoral Position	
<p>As a researcher on the project, the PDV will work under the direction of and in collaboration with Prof Birch – and within the bounds of the project mandate – to undertake research leading to publications in leading international journals. More specifically, the PDV will be responsible for the following kinds of task and activity: literature reviews; primary and secondary data collection; interviewing informants; qualitative and statistical analysis; presenting research at events; 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. LinkedIn); helping to organize events; and other activities as required.</p>	
Key Responsibilities	
<p>The Postdoctoral Visitor will have the following responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake literature reviews, covering fields like STS, research evaluation, economic sociology, education studies, policy studies, and organization studies; • Undertake desk-based secondary data collection relating to research evaluation; • Travel to undertake primary and secondary data collection (as necessary); • Interviewing business, education, and policy elites; • Statistical analysis of quantitative data (as necessary); • Data analysis using qualitative and quantitative software programs (e.g. Atlas.ti 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, Research Evaluation, Economy & Society, etc.); • Writing up research for policy and stakeholder audiences; • Developing and maintaining a project website and other public facing activities; 	

- 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 2025.
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Training/Experience Required	<p>The applicant should have the following experience/training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD and research background in science & technology studies (STS), research evaluation, economic sociology, education studies, policy studies, and organization studies; • Undertaken primary research (e.g. interviewing informants); • Comfortable with qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, especially on education topics (preference for qualitative methods); • Strong theoretical interest in areas relating to STS, critical digital/data studies, assetization, or similar techno-economic analyses; • Publication in international social science journals in STS, research evaluation, economic sociology, education studies, policy studies, and organization studies.
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Terms and Conditions

This PDV position will be based at the Institute for Technoscience & Society at York University with office space at the Keele or Markham Campuses. It will be a full-time position for 30-months (1 July 2025 – 31 December 2027), subject to annual performance reviews. Work can be undertaken remotely with travel to Toronto required, but you will need to be based in Ontario.

Salary: annual salary of \$70,000 + benefits.

How to Apply

To apply for this position, please submit the following materials in one PDF document:

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

Please submit by email to Kean Birch at kean@york.ca by 31 April 2025. Qualified applicants will be invited for an interview conducted via Skype/Zoom/Teams. Apologies in advance, but only those applicants selected for interview will be contacted.