Purpose of role

The successful post holder will assist and support Dr Anna Greenwood in carrying out the historical research component of a 18 month AHRC/GCRF grant: ‘Towards Transdisciplinary Understanding of Inherited Soil Surveys: an Exploratory Case Study in Zambia’, This grant is led by Professor Murray Lark (School of Bio Sciences), Dr Alison Mohr (School of Social Sciences) and Dr Anna Greenwood (School of Humanities) with equivalent partners in the University of Zambia. It will run from 6 January 2020 – 5 January 2021. The post requires some limited overseas travel to Zambia and will be offered on flexible part-time basis, with the successful candidate averaging 25.37 hours per week on the project.

The history role will suit a candidate with a doctorate in colonial/postcolonial history in the history of science/medicine/agriculture/geography with demonstrable research experience of the African continent. Candidates that show a knowledge of Zambian history will be welcomed although this is not an essential requirement. The history component of this project will select, review and contextualise soil surveys produced in Zambia since the 1930s with a view to developing with colleagues, in both Zambia and the UK, a transdisciplinary approach incorporating scientific, historical and sociological perspectives to advance modern understandings of soil challenges in Zambia. Duties will include literature searches, archival scoping, assistance in the organisation of two workshops, the drafting of reports and providing detailed assistance in the creation of further funding bids. The mentorship of senior colleagues will be offered and opportunities to publish within this research area will be actively encouraged.

Main responsibilities

(Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)

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<th>% time per year</th>
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### Research

1. To undertake historical research that will include extensive source mapping and contextual analysis of Zambian soil surveys
2. To conduct literature and database searches and carry out critical evaluations using specified and agreed techniques, approaches and/or models and to document findings.
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<td></td>
<td>To develop skills in, and knowledge of, transdisciplinary research methods and techniques and contribute to the development of choice of techniques, models, methods, critiques and approaches. To produce, in conjunction with Dr Greenwood, the historical content for academic publications as appropriate.</td>
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<td><strong>Grant development</strong></td>
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<td>To collect information for, and participate in the drafting of, content for future grant applications</td>
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<td><strong>Presentation</strong></td>
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<td>To prepare and present papers on research progress and outcomes to relevant groups including external bodies. To communicate information and disseminate ideas and findings to the wider academic community, as well as advising and assisting staff within the research group in relation to dissemination. To build relationships with those interested in the historical and contemporary aspects of soil in Africa. To actively contribute to developing knowledge and understanding that will underpin relationships for future collaborations.</td>
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<td><strong>Administration</strong></td>
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<td>To co-ordinate the operational aspect of research networks, for example, organising events, arranging meetings and generating content as required.</td>
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## Person specification

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<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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| **Skills** | **Evidence of sufficient breadth or depth of research methodologies and techniques to work in research area.**  
**Evidence of interest in developing transdisciplinary ways of working between the Arts and the Sciences.**  
**Highly organised and able to take initiative.**  
**Reliable and personable manner.**  
**Able to build and sustain relationships and collaborate with others, internally and externally.**  
**Confidence to present the project in public.**  
**Strong computer competencies, especially in Word, Excel and Endnote.** | **Analytical ability to facilitate conceptual thinking, innovation and creativity.**  
**A desire to further develop skills and knowledge of research methods and techniques** |

| Knowledge and experience | Some practical experience of working within a variety of archives.  
Some previous experience of postdoctoral research.  
Some experience of cross disciplinary working. |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| **Evidence in use of research methodologies and techniques to work within research area.**  
**Some relevant experience of applying for academic funding**  
**Evidence of interest in contemporary development challenges** | **Completed PhD in one of the following areas: history of imperialism/history of science/history of agriculture/history of medicine/historical geography (all post 1850).**  
**PhD related to African history, particularly Zambia.**  
**Master’s Degree, or equivalent, in relevant subject area.** |

| Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role) | **Evidence in use of research methodologies and techniques to work within research area.**  
**Some relevant experience of applying for academic funding**  
**Evidence of interest in contemporary development challenges** | **Completed PhD in one of the following areas: history of imperialism/history of science/history of agriculture/history of medicine/historical geography (all post 1850).**  
**PhD related to African history, particularly Zambia.**  
**Master’s Degree, or equivalent, in relevant subject area.** |

- **Evidence of interest in developing transdisciplinary ways of working between the Arts and the Sciences.**  
- **Highly organised and able to take initiative.**  
- **Reliable and personable manner.**  
- **Able to build and sustain relationships and collaborate with others, internally and externally.**  
- **Confidence to present the project in public.**  
- **Strong computer competencies, especially in Word, Excel and Endnote.**
The University strongly endorses Athena SWAN principles, with commitment from all levels of the organisation in furthering women's careers. It is our mission to ensure equal opportunity, best working practices and fair policies for all.
Expectations and behaviours

The University has developed a clear set of core expectations and behaviours that our people should be demonstrating in their work, and as ambassadors of the University’s strategy, vision and values. The following are essential to the role:

**Valuing people**  
Is always equitable and fair and works with integrity. Proactively looks for ways to develop the team and is comfortable providing clarity by explaining the rationale behind decisions.

**Taking ownership**  
Is highly self-aware, looking for ways to improve, both taking on board and offering constructive feedback. Inspires others to take accountability for their own areas.

**Forward thinking**  
Driven to question the status quo and explore new ideas, supporting the team to “lead the way” in terms of know-how and learning.

**Professional pride**  
Sets the bar high with quality systems and control measures in place. Demands high standards of others identifying and addressing any gaps to enhance the overall performance.

**Always inclusive**  
Ensures accessibility to the wider community, actively encouraging inclusion and seeking to involve others. Ensures others always consider the wider context when sharing information making full use of networks and connections.

Key relationships with others

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  +----------------+    +----------------+    +----------------+
  |     Line manager    |  <- Anna Greenwood  |  -> Research Fellow |
    +----------------+    +----------------+    +----------------+
  |     Role holder   |
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Anna Greenwood  
Research Fellow