



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

About  
The  
Job.

**The Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute  
Faculty of Social Sciences**

**Chair in Political Economy / Co-Director  
Sheffield Political Economy Research  
Institute (SPERI)**

**Pursue the extraordinary**

# Overview

**The Faculty of Social Sciences** is a large and diverse grouping of thirteen departments that offer professional education alongside more traditional social science disciplines. This rich and exciting disciplinary mix encompasses both world-leading academic research and education and a strong practitioner focus in particular areas. It uniquely positions the Faculty among Sheffield's peer institutions. You will be expected to work with and develop an existing network of researchers in order to develop and sustain a world-leading political economy research agenda. You will also take on joint responsibility for the leadership of the Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute (SPERI).

## About the Institute

SPERI was established by the University of Sheffield in 2012. It aims to bring together leading international researchers, policy makers, journalists and other opinion formers to develop new ways of thinking about the economic and political challenges posed for the whole world by the current combination of financial crisis, shifting economic power and environmental threat.

Since its establishment it has produced a substantive amount of research on aspects of all these challenges. This includes books, journal articles, special issues of journals, SPERI Papers and SPERI Political Economy Briefs. It also runs a highly-regarded blog entitled SPERI Comment: the political economy blog. SPERI also holds many conferences, workshops and public meetings including an Annual Lecture. All of SPERI's past work, current research and future programmes can be found on its website at: [www.sheffield.ac.uk/speri](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/speri)

SPERI has been co-directed since its establishment by Professors Colin Hay and Tony Payne. Tony retires as Director of SPERI on 31 July 2017. Beyond its current core staff, the Institute is also supported by several Honorary Research Fellows and a large number of Associates Fellows drawn from no less than ten departments of the University.

## Job Role

It is with great pleasure that we formally invite applications for the position of Professor of Political Economy and Co-Director in the Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute (SPERI).

The Faculty of Social Sciences has made a strategic commitment to developing and delivering an ambitious and high quality research agenda that addresses and impacts upon the major challenges faced by society. Continued support for SPERI as one of the University's and Faculty's leading research institutes is a key element of this commitment.

We are looking for an inspirational leader, who, working with the other members of the leadership team in SPERI, can provide the intellectual and strategic direction to meet our ambitions for the

Institute. You will work to ensure the SPERI continues to be seen as a hub of world-class research in political economy. You will be a recognised world-class scholar with a distinguished publication and successful grant funding record in a field or fields relevant to the Institute's core interests. You will also appreciate and seek to take forward SPERI's public agenda in bringing its research into contact with the wider world of policy-making and public engagement.

This is an academic appointment at professorial level and the Faculty is committed to providing you with the time and resources needed to develop your personal research ambitions at Sheffield while also contributing to the leadership and activities of SPERI. You will initially spend 100% of your time in your Institute role, before transitioning after discussion to a model where SPERI remains your predominant base but some leadership position in your assigned department is also expected.

You will report to the Faculty Director of Research and Innovation but will also need to have a strong and positive working relationship with the Head of your academic department.

This is a unique opportunity for an academic leader who is committed to research and has the necessary inspiration and expertise to develop SPERI's research agenda both intellectually and publicly. We are hoping for a strong and competitive field and the whole SPERI team looks forward to working closely with the successful candidate.



Professor Gill Valentine

Faculty of Social Sciences Vice-President and Head of Faculty

# Job Description

## Main Duties and Responsibilities

Specific responsibilities of the role are:

### LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

- Be responsible and accountable in conjunction with the existing Co-Director for setting and advancing the academic strategy of SPERI, ensuring alignment with Faculty and University strategic plans and direction.
- Actively engage with external stakeholders in shaping the strategy of SPERI.
- Help sustain appropriate structures for management, consultation, decision-making and communication with SPERI staff.
- Support a dynamic and forward-looking interdisciplinary research environment within SPERI's field of activity.
- Develop and secure research grant income and work with the Faculty team to ensure the financial sustainability of the Institute.
- Deliver high quality, highly-cited academic outputs
- Ensure the highest levels of quality, integrity and ethics in all research undertaken.
- Develop links with other research centres, institutes and think tanks within and beyond the University, developing joint workshops and conferences and facilitating opportunities for public engagement in SPERI's research activities.
- Promote and represent SPERI (and the Faculty and University) both internally and externally.

### KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

- Create and exploit new opportunities for knowledge transfer activity in order to secure additional income streams and new areas of research.
- Develop impact in the field of political economy research.
- Contribute to University-wide initiatives in order to improve understanding and communication of this area.

### PEOPLE MANAGEMENT

- Engender a culture of excellence, cooperation and respect within the SPERI team.

- Ensure that staff performance is managed appropriately and in a way that is consistent with the expectations of the Sheffield Academic, and that fair workload allocation processes are in place.
- Ensure all research staff has access to the necessary support to enable them to contribute fully and develop their skills and experience.
- Make effective use of all staffing resources and seek opportunities for collaboration and joint working with others across and beyond the Faculty.
- Ensure that University HR policies and procedures are implemented.
- Ensure a safe and healthy environment for both staff and students, and full compliance with health and safety requirements.

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

- Take responsibility for devolved budgets and comply with University financial regulations.
- Manage income and expenditure in order to promote financial sustainability.
- Ensure adherence with University Financial Regulations and other financial operating procedures and regulations.
- Ensure that University equipment/facilities under your control are properly maintained and serviced as required.

## **QUALITY ASSURANCE**

- Ensure all activities are carried out to the highest possible standards and put in place the necessary evaluation and monitoring procedures to ensure both compliance and improvement: such procedures will include research and management of all resources.
- Comply with auditing, quality assurance and risk management procedures both internal and external.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONAL ACADEMIC/RESEARCH STANDING**

- Continue to develop your position as a leading academic researcher; including publication, securing of external funding and the pursuit of other relevant indicators of standing in the field.
- Engage positively with the academic community within your 'home' academic department (to be determined through mutual discussion and linked to discipline area).
- Engage positively with the wider public agenda in relation to political economy in the UK and beyond.
- Any other duties, commensurate with the grade of the post.

# Person Specification

Applicants should provide evidence in their applications that they meet the following criteria. We will use a range of selection methods to measure candidates' abilities in these areas including reviewing your on-line application, seeking references, inviting shortlisted candidates to interview and other forms of assessment action relevant to the post.

## **Qualifications and experience**

- An internationally recognisable academic and research track record within political economy, including substantive experience of collaboration and interdisciplinary research.
- A PhD (or equivalent experience), ideally in a social sciences discipline.
- Experience of administrative and management systems in Universities.
- A track record of securing competitive research and knowledge exchange funding
- A track record of engagement with policy-makers and the public arena.

## **Management skills**

- Excellent people management skills, with a proven ability to lead and manage a large and diverse team.
- Experience of operating at managerial/strategic level within the Higher Education sector or similar complex environment.
- Ability to manage competing demands.
- Ability to set and communicate strategy and expectations for staff.
- Experience of managing budgets.

## **Communication skills**

- Excellent interpersonal skills, with the ability to liaise and manage relationships effectively with colleagues, students and external stakeholders.
- High level influencing and networking skills.
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal.

## **Team working**

- Ability to lead effectively a diverse and interdisciplinary team.

- Experience of building and developing a team.

### **Supporting staff performance**

- Able to support staff effectively, address poor performance and provide appropriate staff development opportunities for all.

### **Problem solving and decision-making**

- Proven ability to tackle and resolve complex and often conflicting problems within set time frames.
- Experience of high level innovative and strategic decision making.
- Project management skills.
- Experience of managing complex projects within a Higher Education setting or in a similar complex environment.
- Personal effectiveness.
- Ability to maximise opportunities and exploit challenges.
- Capacity for successful innovation and ability to oversee developments.
- Able to engage effectively with internal and external stakeholders.
- Proven capacity to work to and meet deadlines.

## **Further Information**

**Reporting Structure:** At the University of Sheffield, the post holder will report to the Faculty Director of Research and Innovation. As a world-class researcher, you will be linked to an Academic School/Department within the Faculty of Social Sciences. This will be discussed and determined on appointment. You will liaise closely with the department in respect of its research activities.

**Support in the role:** You will be provided with administrative support within SPERI and will receive support at a departmental level in respect of the pursuance of your personal research agenda. Additional specific support may be available based on an individual's research ambitions and personal requirements.

**This post is** open ended and is available from 01 August 2017.

**This post is full-time:**

This role has been identified as a full-time post, but we are committed to exploring flexible working opportunities with our staff which benefit both the individual and the University (See [www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/guidance/flexible](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/guidance/flexible)). Therefore, we would consider flexible delivery of the role subject to meeting the business needs of the post. If you wish to explore flexible working opportunities in relation to this post, please contact the recruiting department via the contact details provided below.

## Reward and Recognition – The Deal

**Terms and conditions of employment:** will be those for a Non-Clinical Professor.

**Salary for this grade:** Professorial Pay Scheme Band Structure.

Please see pay scheme structure:

(<http://www.shef.ac.uk/hr/reward/professorial/structure.html>)

**Holidays:** 30 days, plus 3 closure days, plus 8 bank holidays per year. Staff also have the opportunity to purchase additional leave.

**Pension:** The Post-holder is eligible to join the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS).

**Other general benefits:** The University offers a range of core and lifestyle benefits to its staff, including the 'Pay Plus' salary sacrifice scheme on pensions, childcare vouchers and bike purchase. The UOffers scheme also provides a range of discounts and retail offers negotiated on behalf of University staff.

**Role specific benefits:** A generous removal/relocation expenses package is available subject to the terms of the scheme. The post-holder will be provided with the appropriate personal mobile equipment (e.g. iPhone, laptop) to enable flexible working across and beyond campus.

More details on salaries, terms and conditions and our wide range of benefits for staff are available at: [www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/reward/structures](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/reward/structures)

We are committed to making the University a remarkable place to work and support this through a number of sector leading initiatives such as Juice and Sheffield Leader. Through The Deal we are committed to making the University a remarkable place to work and we support this through a number of sector leading initiatives such as Juice and Sheffield Leader.





## *the*SheffieldLEADER

Our innovative Health and Wellbeing programme, Juice, promotes happiness and wellbeing through a broad range of inclusive activities ([www.shef.ac.uk/juice](http://www.shef.ac.uk/juice))

Our leadership development has been designed to ensure that our leaders have the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed by the University ([www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/sld/sheffieldleader](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/sld/sheffieldleader)).

We are also proud of our award-winning equality and diversity action which enhances working life for all. 92% of staff tell us they are treated with fairness and respect (staff survey 2016) [www.shef.ac.uk/hr/equality](http://www.shef.ac.uk/hr/equality)

In our staff survey (2016) 94% of staff said they were proud to work for the University and 89% of our staff would recommend the University as an excellent place to work. To find out more about what it's like to work here have a look at our webpages, <http://remarkable.group.shef.ac.uk/>, [www.sheffield.ac.uk/staff/survey](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/staff/survey) and [www.sheffield.ac.uk/jobs/staffbenefits](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/jobs/staffbenefits)

**Closing date: 20 April 2017**

### **Informal enquiries:**

For all on-line application system queries and support, contact: [e-Recruitment@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:e-Recruitment@sheffield.ac.uk).

For informal enquiries about this job and department, contact: Professor Craig Watkins at [c.a.watkins@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:c.a.watkins@sheffield.ac.uk) or on 0114 222 6925; or Professor Colin Hay at [c.hay@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:c.hay@sheffield.ac.uk) or on 0114 2221707. In order to schedule a discussion please contact Angela Maskrey in the first instance: email: [A.Maskrey@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:A.Maskrey@sheffield.ac.uk) or tel: 0114 222 8352.

## **Selection-Next Step**

Following the closing date, you will be informed by email whether or not you have been shortlisted to be invited to participate in the next stage of the selection process. Please note that due to the large number of applications that we receive, it may take up to two working weeks following the closing date before the recruiting department will be able to contact you.

It is anticipated that interviews and other selection action will be held on 16 May. Full details will be provided to candidates.

The University of Sheffield is committed to achieving excellence through inclusion.

The University of Sheffield is proud to be a Two Ticks employer  
[www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/equality/support/twoticks](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/equality/support/twoticks)



The University has achieved the Athena SWAN award for Women in Science, Engineering and Medicine.



**Pursue the extraordinary**

