

Governing the Un-governable: Understanding the space-violence relationship through an interrogation of municipal and police functioning

Post-Doctoral Researcher Job Description

One year, full-time; Fixed term.

Located in Kathmandu, Nepal; travel as necessary for project

Reports to: Subindra Bogati, Chief Executive, Nepal Peacebuilding Initiative;

Salary

Up to EUR 2,300 per month, paid directly to the post doc by the funder.

Start date

January 2020

Synopsis of the project

With half of humanity living in urban centres, municipal authorities find themselves at the forefront of some of the largest development challenges we face today. Ensuring adequate security in fast-growing cities is one of these pressing challenges of our times. Though responses by cities range from mechanising their police forces to community-based interventions, there is a risk that urban security regimes are increasingly investing in the policing of cities, rather than in policing for cities. Where police forces are weak or corrupt, evidence abounds on people seeking security from private security companies, but also from gangs, or criminal groups. A relative blind spot exists around the nature of control municipalities are able to leverage over security providers in their day-to-day functioning. We ask how real this control is; what everyday bargains enable or disable urban security regimes. And, importantly, we ask how practices of governing security providers contribute to broader urban transformations over time.

The Governing the Un-governable (GTU) project (funded by the Gerda Henkel Stiftung, Principal Investigator – Dr Jaideep Gupte) seeks to interrogate these questions with a view towards envisioning new urban horizons whilst also identifying workable policy alternatives through which municipal authorities can strengthen the provision of security in their cities. We will work closely with local civil society partners and municipal authorities in two cities in Nepal (Janakpur and Dhangadi) to trace the policy processes related to the provision of urban security in participatory and novel ways. We will use the findings that emerge to curate multi-stakeholder and multi-scaler dialogues within these cities, as well as at a city-to-city level, bringing in a range of stakeholder groups from Commonwealth cities with whom we share an ongoing working relationship. Our outputs and the dialogues will serve to strengthen best practices and support the iterative sharing of ideas to create legacies of change.

General description and purpose of the role:

Post-doctoral research posts provide the opportunity for recent PhD graduates to develop further research experience, in collaboration with more senior colleagues. This is seen as a transitional position between a PhD and a longer-term research career. The position will provide opportunity for the Post-doctoral post holder to write and publish, either collaboratively with others, or drawing from their own work.

The work will be under the overall direction of the Principal Investigator, while the post will be line managed by and report directly to the Chief Executive, Nepal Peacebuilding Initiative. The line manager is responsible for induction, appraisal, support and ongoing management to support excellent performance, though these activities can be designated to other senior colleagues by agreement. The line manager will support the Post-doctoral

Researcher to achieve a programme of published work and in the second year of the post, to identify and pursue suitable future funding opportunities, building up independent grant writing skills. The successful candidate will also collaborate closely with project partners from the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, and the IDS PhD researcher.

Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Postdoctoral Researcher include:

Research activities

- Undertake a range of desk research, including carrying out literature reviews and other background research activities in timely fashion to the agreed standard.
- Undertake field-based research as appropriate, including a mapping survey and key informant interviews.
- Undertake spatial analysis as appropriate
- Curate audio-visual data into appropriate formats for analysis
- Maintain up to date knowledge of key literatures and methodologies on the relevant areas of research.
- Write up literature reviews, formal reports and other syntheses of projects, including web topic guides, issue papers and other documents as required in accordance with the agreed specifications.
- Contribute to article-length pieces during the post-doctoral fellowship. The successful candidate will be encouraged and supported to lead on research outputs as appropriate.
- Assist with managing projects in collaboration with project staff and the relevant research leader, including budgets, timelines and outputs.

Networking and liaison

- Build and maintain networks and relationships with local stakeholders and partner organisations.
- In particular, and in close collaboration with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, organise and participate in a City-to-City dialogue.

Communications

- Curate audio-visual material into appropriate formats for dissemination
- Work on all aspects of effective communication outputs, including social media, and the production of high-quality publications.

Person Specification – Post Doctoral Researcher

Requirement	Essential	Desirable	Method of assessment
Educational qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD in relevant discipline; • Demonstrate appropriate record of academic outputs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant qualifications/ training in spatial analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application, • Documentary evidence
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad, varied and in-depth knowledge of the theoretical and practical literature on inclusive urban governance; development in cities; and safer cities. • Fluency in spoken and written English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluency in Nepali; • Working knowledge of Tharu and/or Maithili 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application • Written submissions

Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial work, research and/or programme experience on developing countries or relevant roles • Experience of production of research outputs, demonstrated by appropriate record of working papers and reports. • Experience of designing and conducting a research study including secondary and primary research • Experience of conducting fieldwork in isolated conditions • Experience of literature review and working with 'grey literature' • Experience of data management and analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in the development of research proposals • Experience of turning research findings into policy-relevant outputs (eg. policy briefings; effective communication or dissemination events or products) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application • Written submissions
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent analytical, research methods (qualitative and/or quantitative) and writing skills, demonstrated by a record of projects, publications and reports • Ability to translate academic knowledge into policy and practice-relevant outputs • Strong interpersonal skills, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability to work with researchers from a variety of backgrounds and in a variety of contexts, including overseas - Ability to work collaboratively in multi-disciplinary and mixed skill teams (e.g. researchers and practitioners); - Skills in negotiation, problem-solving and decision-making • Strong organizational and time management skills, including the ability to manage a complex workload 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills in curating audio-visual content • Use of ICTs for dissemination of research methods and findings • Spoken and written communication abilities for a range of audiences • Languages (spoken and read beyond English) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application • Interview • Written Submissions
Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-motivated, goal-oriented, enthusiastic and entrepreneurial attitude • Demonstrated capacity for leadership and innovation in the field • Commitment to team and collaborative working • Problem-solving approach 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application • Interview • references
Health/other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willingness and ability to be located in Kathmandu, Nepal for the duration of the post-doc • Willingness to travel internationally as required 		

To Apply please submit a cover letter elaborating how you meet the job specifications, an up-to-date CV, and a relevant writing sample (this can be of any length, and should showcase your thematic and/or technical skills) by **FRIDAY DECEMBER 6th 2019** to Jeevan Thapa: jeevan@nepalpeacebuilding.org.

Please note, we are likely to interview (in person or via Skype) shortlisted candidates in late November-early December 2019. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted to arrange the interview, and at that stage will be asked to arrange two academic references. Please do not send references with your application.

Please direct any queries to the above email address.