Addendum to Role Profile

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Job Title:** | Research Fellow (1A) |

|  |
| --- |
| Job Summary and Purpose: |
| This information sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying generic Research RA1A Role Profile and will be used for shortlisting processes. More specifically the post holder will be expected to:  The research fellow will work to create and contribute to the creation of knowledge by undertaking a specified range of activities within the Wellcome Trust-funded project: “A Health-centred Systems Approach towards Net-Zero: Transforming regional climate mitigation policies (Heal-NZ)”.  The overall aim of Heal-NZ is to transform regional Net-Zero policy solutions by adopting a health-centred systems approach. To this aim, Heal-NZ brings together scientists from a range of disciplines (including social science, climate, air quality, health and economics) from the Universities of Birmingham, Surrey, and York, and stakeholders from West Midlands Combined Authority, Defra, Birmingham City Council, Clean Air Fund, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Coventry City Council, Solihull Council, Cambridge Environmental Research Consultants, and WSP in the UK to develop new tools and science understanding.  Heal-NZ is a transdisciplinary collaboration network involving 25 investigators and stakeholders 10 researchers and a project manager. To support the project, we are recruiting a total of 5 postdoctoral researchers and 1 project manager to start in Oct 2023.  This 30-month research fellow will play a major part in the project activities, working in close collaboration with Senior Researcher Dr Alexandra Penn and with the broader team. In particular, co-leading (or leading) a participatory systems mapping (PSM) process covering 3 climate and health-related policy areas in the West Midlands: transport; housing and energy, and the interactions between them. This will include: identifying and contacting stakeholders; helping to develop the workshop programmes and organising workshops, designing new methods to fit the on the ground context and working with the broader team to integrate different types of data and evidence into the maps and using maps to inform modelling and data collection. The research fellow will also work with policy colleagues to collect and categorize relevant Net Zero policy initiatives. These will be prioritized and stress-tested using the systems maps, using causal and network analysis combined with subjective information from stakeholders. Allowing the identification of policy options with possible co-benefits for health and climate as well as analysing potential trade-offs or unexpected indirect effects of policy options and so aiding whole systems-informed policy making processes. They will also play a key role in communicating findings to policy makers and other stakeholders and working with them to enable an adaptive policy making process. |

|  |
| --- |
| Main Responsibilities/Activities |
| The Research Fellow will play a major part in the project activities, working in close collaboration with Senior Researcher Dr Alexandra Penn and with the broader team. In particular, co-leading (or leading) the participatory systems mapping process covering 3 policy areas in the West Midlands, identifying and contacting stakeholders, helping to develop the workshop programmes and organising workshops, designing new methods to fit the on the ground context and working with the broader team to integrate different types of data and evidence into the maps and using maps to inform modelling and data collection. The research fellow will also help to collect and categorize relevant Net Zero policy initiatives which will be prioritized and stress-tested using the systems maps. They will also play a key role in communicating findings to policy makers and other stakeholders and working with them to enable an adaptive policy making process.  More specifically:   1. Organise and facilitate a series of participatory systems mapping workshops with appropriate local stakeholders in The West Midlands covering the three key climate and health policy areas: transport; housing and energy, and the interactions between them (with support of a senior researcher). 2. In collaboration with the broader team, identify the key system actors and stakeholders required for an effective participatory co-production process and build and maintain relationships with these stakeholders. 3. Organise and administer participatory processes on the ground within the case study area, ensuring that stakeholder engagement is performed to a high standard and that all ethical considerations are taken into account. 4. Supported by the senior researcher, creatively use, modify and design participatory systems methods to meet the requirements of real-world challenge domains and practical problems on the ground. 5. Produce updatable, digitised versions of the individual and combined systems maps and accompanying documentation 6. Work with the broader team, and supported by a senior researcher, to integrate results from quantitative data collection and modelling, economic modelling and qualitative social science data into the systems maps effectively to support decision making. Contributing to developing new methods to do so as needed. 7. In consultation with policy, community stakeholders and our Regional Public Involvement in Research Group, undertake a comprehensive review of existing West Midlands policy actions and develop a series of Net-Zero options towards WM2041 for transport, housing and energy sectors. 8. With the support of the senior researcher, use network analysis tools to analyse systems maps to inform policy selection, by identifying points of intervention which could encourage synergies/co-benefits or account for trade-offs and stress-test prioritised Net-Zero options with the systems maps to identify further synergies, trade- offs, risks and unintended consequences, allowing effective policy choices and modification. 9. Synthesise policy outputs from the systems mapping workshops and analysis and help to communicate them to policy and academic audiences and produce outputs to allow results to be used in different contexts, e.g. policy planning 10. Collaborate on the development of innovative methods to use combined systems mapping, data collection and modelling to support iterative, adaptive policy design, evaluation and learning processes. 11. Design and implement a strategy and practical ways to produce and maintain “living” maps, which can be updated with new information, to inform policy selection, appraisal, evaluation and redesign, and provide an enduring project legacy.   The Research Fellow will also be expected to:   1. Prepare academic publications related to the work. 2. Contribute to the development of research proposals stemming from the project. 3. Contribute generally to the academic life of the Project and the Centre.   **N.B. The above list is not exhaustive**. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Person Specification (Essential E, Desirable D)** |
| A relevant PhD or equivalent professional experience E |
| Ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of potential stakeholders, from government, local government, business, NGOs, and community groups D |
| An interest in, and some experience of, sustainability issues and UK public policy at the regional level D |
| Experience of and interest in participatory methods, in particular participatory modelling D |
| Experience in systems mapping or other systems methods and associated analysis (e.g. network analysis) D |
| Experience of and interest in, co-production processes D |
| Experience of workshop facilitation and the methods typically used for facilitation D |
| Experience in qualitative social science qualitative methods D |
| With the support of a senior researcher, ability to creatively modify and design participatory methods and analysis to meet demands of on the ground context D |
| Sufficient cross-disciplinary understanding to work collaboratively on bridging qualitative and quantitative models, methods and data with other researchers D |
| Experience in and enthusiasm for interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary working E |
| Enthusiasm for and the ability to connect academic work with the realities of practical problem solving on the ground in regional policy contexts and the ability to modify working processes and methods to context as needed D |
| Ability to work independently and take initiative, with the support of a senior researcher, as well as to work collaboratively within a team E |
| Excellent written and verbal communication skills including the ability to communicate complex information to diverse stakeholder audiences D |
| A strong team work ethic and collaborative work style D |
| Experience of scholarly publication D |
| Ability to work within a multidisciplinary, multi-site team E |
| **Special Requirements** |
| Willingness and ability to travel within the UK, in particular in the study area of Birmingham and the West Midlands E |

|  |
| --- |
| **Relationships and Contacts** |
| This position will be supervised by Dr Alexandra Penn, in collaboration with the HEAL-NZ team.  HEAL-NZ is a 3 year, Wellcome trust-funded project which brings together scientists from a range of disciplines (including social science, climate, air quality, health and economics) from the Universities of Birmingham, Surrey, and York, and stakeholders from West Midlands Combined Authority, Defra, Birmingham City Council, Clean Air Fund, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Coventry City Council, Solihull Council, Cambridge Environmental Research Consultants, and WSP in the UK to develop new tools and science understanding. The Principal investigators are Professor Zongbo Shi (University of Birmingham), and Dr. Jackie Homan (West Midland Combined Authority) .  The Heal-NZ transdisciplinary collaboration network involves 25 investigators and stakeholders, 10 researchers and a project manager. To support the project, we are recruiting a total of 5 postdoctoral researchers and 1 project manager to start in Oct 2023.They will work with 5 senior research fellows (already in posts) within the Health-NZ team to address the overall aim of the project.  This position will be based at the University of Surrey in the Department of Sociology <https://www.surrey.ac.uk/department-sociology> in CRESS, the Centre for Research in Social Simulation <https://cress.soc.surrey.ac.uk/web/home> and CECAN, the centre for the Evaluation of Complexity Across the Nexus <https://www.cecan.ac.uk> , and the researcher will become a member of these groups. However remote working is permitted.  The study area is situated in the West Midlands, with the majority of the team based at the University of Birmingham. All participatory workshops and stakeholder engagement will be carried out in the West Midlands region and we hope to encourage significant face to face interaction and successful interdisciplinary working amongst the whole project team. For that reason, travel to the West Midlands on a regular basis for project activities will be required and space will be available for the researcher in the project team office at the University of Birmingham.  Contact [a.penn@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:a.penn@surrey.ac.uk) to discuss further details |