

## JOB DESCRIPTION TEMPLATE FOR A POSTDOCTORAL VISITOR AT YORK UNIVERSITY

Job Information	
Position Title	Postdoctoral Fellow in Innovation & Rentiership
Category	Postdoctoral Visitor
Supervisor(s)	Prof Kean Birch
Unit	Department of Geography
Location	Keele Campus, York University, Toronto
Background	
<p>I am seeking a Postdoctoral Fellow to work with me on a SSHRC-funded project titled “From Entrepreneurship to Rentiership? The Changing Dynamics of Innovation in Technoscientific Capitalism”. The project will examine the extent to which contemporary capitalism is characterized by destructive, predatory, captured, monopolistic, and unequal forms of <i>rentiership</i>. It is motivated by the increasing unease expressed by academics, politicians, business people, and activists from across the political spectrum with the problematic effects emerging in contemporary, technoscientific capitalism, especially the growing trend towards rentiership as opposed to entrepreneurship. Rentiership implies a shift from the construction of value through the sale of products and services to the capture of value from the ownership of and control over the conditions of production (e.g. land, money, knowledge, natural resources, etc.). In the former, profits come from competing to sell products and services; while in the latter, rents come from the ability to charge fees for access to productive assets like land, money, networks, personal property, knowledge, etc. The project’s objectives are: (1) explore the prevalence of and differences in rentiership in contemporary technoscientific capitalism; (2) examine the empirical manifestations of different forms of rentiership (e.g. government fiat, monopoly, market control) in technoscientific capitalism; (3) unpack the implications of rentiership for innovation and financial strategies in technoscientific capitalism; and (4) outline the impacts of rentiership on research and innovation policy and policy-making in technoscientific capitalist countries.</p>	
Overall Purpose of Postdoctoral Position	
<p>As a researcher with the project, in collaboration and with the guidance of the supervisor, and within the bounds of the project mandate, the Postdoctoral Fellow will undertake research leading to publication in leading international journals. More specifically, the Postdoctoral Fellow in Innovation and Rentiership will be responsible for the following tasks and activities: literature reviews; primary and secondary data collection; interviewing informants; statistical analysis; presenting research; 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. Twitter); helping to organize events; and other activities as required.</p>	
Key Responsibilities	
<p>The Postdoctoral Fellowship will have the following responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake literature reviews, covering fields like STS, economic geography, economic sociology, and organization studies.</li> <li>• Undertake desk-based secondary data collection on two case studies – social media sector in San Francisco and biotechnology sector in South East UK;</li> <li>• Overseas travel to undertake primary and secondary data collection on two overseas case studies;</li> <li>• Interviewing business, financial, and policy elites in case study sectors;</li> <li>• Statistical analysis of financial data on case study sectors;</li> <li>• Data analysis using qualitative and quantitative software programs (e.g. NVivo, SPSS, Excel);</li> <li>• Presenting research at international conferences and other events (e.g. 4S, AAG, ASA);</li> <li>• Writing up research for publication in leading international journals (and publishers) (e.g. STHV, PiHG, SER, JCE, RIPE, NPE, Organization, etc.);</li> <li>• Writing up research for policy and stakeholder audiences;</li> </ul>	

- Developing and maintaining a project website and social media presence (e.g. Twitter);
- Helping to organize events;
- Other activities as required.

### Skills and Qualifications

Educational Qualifications Applicants must have completed all requirements for a PhD by January 2020.

Training/Experience Required

The applicant must have the following experience/training:

- PhD and research background in science & technology studies, economic geography, economic sociology, or organization studies;
- Undertaken research outside of Canada, either in the UK or USA (e.g. interviewing informants);
- Comfortable doing qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, especially on financial topics;
- Strong theoretical interest in areas relating to assetization and rentiership;
- Publication in highly ranked, international social science journals in science & technology studies, economic geography, economic sociology, and/or organization studies.

### Terms and Conditions

This postdoctoral position based in Department of Geography will be 1 year in length, with the possibility of renewal for an additional period of 6 months.

Salary: minimum salary of \$41,000 + benefits

### How to Apply

To apply for this position, please submit the following documents:

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

Please submit all documents by email to Kean Birch at [kean@yorku.ca](mailto:kean@yorku.ca) by 31 October 2019. Qualified applicants will be invited for an interview to be conducted by Skype (or similar). Only those applicants selected for interview will be contacted.