

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

### POSITION INFORMATION

POSITION TITLE:	Senior Research Fellow in Non-Western Political Thought
WORK AREA POSITION CODE:	<i>(To be allocated by Human Resources)</i>
FUNCTIONAL UNIT:	Institute for Social Justice
ORGANISATIONAL UNIT:	Faculty of Education and Arts
CAMPUS:	MacKillop campus, North Sydney
NOMINATED SUPERVISOR (TITLE):	Associate Professor, Institute of Social Justice
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION:	Academic Level C
EMPLOYMENT TYPE	Continuing, Full time
REMUNERATION & BENEFITS:	A range of generous conditions of employment and entitlements are provided to staff some of these include: generous leave conditions; flexible working conditions; comprehensive Staff Development Programs; salary packaging benefits as a rebate able employer; reward and recognition programs.
SUPERANNUATION:	The University will contribute an amount equivalent to 9.5% or 17% of your gross annual salary to superannuation dependant on salary level, length of appointment or age.
DATE DEVELOPED/ REVIEWED	19 November 2014

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## **Background**

### ***Mission Statement:***

*Within the Catholic intellectual tradition and acting in Truth and Love, Australian Catholic University is committed to the pursuit of knowledge, the dignity of the human person and the common good.*

Australian Catholic University (ACU) welcomes students and staff of all beliefs. It is committed to a strong Catholic ethos and seeks to foster and promote teaching and learning, research and scholarship, and community engagement in the Christian tradition.

The University shares with universities worldwide a commitment to quality in teaching, research and service. It aspires to be a community characterised by free enquiry and academic integrity.

The University chooses to focus on areas of teaching and research that are closely connected with its particular character as a University that is, Catholic, public and national. The focus areas are Theology and Philosophy, Health, Education and, the Common Good and Social Justice.

ACU has over 1,800 staff supporting more than 30,000 students across seven campuses – Adelaide, Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, North Sydney and Strathfield.

The structure to support this complex and national University consists of:

- Provost
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor Students, Learning and Teaching
- Chief Operating Officer

Each portfolio consists of a number of Schools, Directorates or Institutes;

- Five Associate-Vice-Chancellors or Campus Deans that focus on the University's local presence and development of the University at the local 'campus' level; and
- A Directorate of Identity and Mission that drives both the Identity and the [Mission](#) of the University and includes a number of Institutes and Directorates.

The University is committed to performance excellence and offers an environment where staff are valued and rewarded. Further information about a career with ACU is available at [www.acu.edu.au](http://www.acu.edu.au).

The Faculty of Education & Arts where this role resides will be at the MacKillop Campus, North Sydney.

The Australian Catholic University (ACU) is a dynamic and fast-growing university offering a stimulating, demanding, and competitive disciplinary and interdisciplinary research environment. The position seeks to attract established scholars specializing in Asian studies, international relations, political theory, comparative politics, security studies, normative political economy, environmental humanities and related fields. Applicants will have demonstrated track record of generating innovative, cross-disciplinary research into the history, justification, and impact of Asian normative orders and comparing the ways in which they confront, compliment, and transform established traditions, norms, and institutions. At the same time, selected candidates will possess sufficient breadth of specialist knowledge to be able to conduct research tracking the evolution of Asian (and global) norms through periods of discontinuous change marked not only by 'the rise of Asia', but also by the radical reality of simultaneous environmental, economic, political, and societal changes.

The Institute of Social Justice offers a stimulating, demanding, and dynamic disciplinary and interdisciplinary research environment. The research of the current members of the Institute engages with social and political theory and practice from East Africa to East Asia.

## **POSITION PURPOSE**

The Senior Research Fellow will have experience in research and scholarly activities which have resulted in publications in high-quality refereed journals and/or secured competitive research funding. They will be expected to carry out independent research, to contribute to collaborative research and supervise, mentor and train postgraduate research students. Overall, this position will contribute to and enhance the research profile of the ACU Institute of Social Justice.

As the Senior Research Fellow in Non-Western Political Thought, you will have an interest in re-thinking Western-oriented methods of inquiry and theories, which in turn allows us to rethink dominant conceptions of knowledge and normativity in political thought. In particular, you will be interested in non-Western conceptions of just, sustainable, and equitable global life and the governance practices that they inform, and in comparing the ways in which such normative understandings confront, complement, and transform established traditions and practices of inquiry.

## **POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES**

You will be expected to contribute actively and collaboratively to the strategic direction of the Institute through the development of relevant and meaningful research programs and initiatives drawing on non-Western approaches to the fragile and unpredictable conditions of global life. You will also show an interest in combining original normative reflection with diverse forms of action research and contribute to the Institute's Doctoral Program in Social and Political Thought through postgraduate teaching and the supervision of doctoral students.

Successful candidates will possess:

- Expertise in postcolonial, subaltern, gender/feminist, queer and other critical approaches to non-Western political thought;
- Sophisticated knowledge of non-Western conceptions of justice and ethical life;
- Demonstrated familiarity with the manner in which the 'political' is conceived in non-Western contexts, and critical engagement with non-Western modes of political action.
- Demonstrated capacity to seek and secure funding from external bodies.

## **SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE (Selection Criteria)**

### **Essential**

1. Possession of a PhD in a relevant discipline.
2. Demonstrated familiarity with Non-Western, post-colonial, feminist, and/or critical approaches to political thought.
3. Demonstrated planning and organisational skills, with the ability to manage a number of events/projects at one time, achieve required outcomes, and meet deadlines in a high pressure environment.
4. The experience and vision to foster new initiatives and partnerships.
5. Commitment to teamwork and interdisciplinary research collaboration.
6. Distinguished record of research and scholarship, and a research publication record.
7. Applicants should demonstrate awareness of the University's Mission and Catholic ethos and demonstrate an understanding of how this role serves the Mission.
8. Applicants should demonstrate commitment to cultural diversity and ethical practice principles, and demonstrate knowledge of equal employment opportunity and workplace health and safety, appropriate to the level of the appointment.

### **Desirable**

1. Experience in the supervision of honours and postgraduate students.

Additional Information about ACU, our Organisational Structure and working at ACU can be obtained from our website [www.acu.edu.au/careers](http://www.acu.edu.au/careers).