

**Vacancy for the post of Post-Doctoral Research Assistant**  
(on fixed-term basis)

**“Digitising the periphery: Co-producing a toolkit for digital democracy and inclusive urbanization”**

International collaboration between University College London (UCL) and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)

Funded by The British Academy, UK

**Date of advertisement:** 22 January 2021

<b>Name of Post</b>	Post-Doctoral Research Associate (PDRA)
<b>No of Posts</b>	1 (one)
<b>Duration</b>	2 years Fixed term
<b>Last date of Application</b>	28/02/2021
<b>Remuneration</b>	Rs. 68000 rupees per month
<b>Nature of position</b>	Full time
<b>Office Contact</b>	022-25525333
<b>Direct Line Manager</b>	Professor Abdul Shaban (TISS)
<b>Project Principal Investigator</b>	Professor Ayona Datta (UCL)
<b>Expected date of joining</b>	1 April 2021
<b>Employing Institution</b>	Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India

Note: Candidate will also be provided basic health insurance as per TISS policy, the details of which will be provided by TISS Personnel Section to the selected candidate.

**About the project**

Rapid and widespread growth of urban peripheries in the global south have highlighted their significance as the frontiers of planetary scale urbanisation. At the same time, global policy initiatives directing wider public sector reforms through e-governance have ushered a new era of digitalisation of urban municipalities. In India, this ‘digital revolution’ in governance has presented profound challenges to urban peripheries, with burgeoning slums and labour camps,

degraded infrastructures and urban services. This presents several challenges to fulfilling the UN Sustainable Development Goals #10: Reduce Inequality, #11: Sustainable cities and communities, and Habitat III-New Urban Agenda.

This project will examine how urban peripheries are being transformed by Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and digital infrastructures and how these are in turn transforming marginal citizens' bargaining power and relationships with the Indian state. Through visual, digital and participatory methodologies developed with marginal actors, this project will produce insights into processes of digitising the peripheries and address the wider gaps in national digitisation and urbanisation initiatives.

Project website: <https://digitisingperiphery.wordpress.com>

### **Main purpose of the job**

Reporting to Profs. Abdul Shaban and Ayona Datta, the post holder will work as part of an international research team on 'Digitising the Periphery'. The candidate should have a PhD in urban and/or development geography with interests in digital democracy and governance, and should have experience of working at the grassroots with marginal groups. They should have skills in conducting semi-structured interviews, focused groups discussions as well as experience of digital and participatory methods. They will provide support in organising a project conference in India, and in developing pathways to impact activities including contributing to online blogs, toolkits, policy briefings and report. The postholder will be expected to be a full collaborator in the research team, co-authoring outputs and engaging in other means for disseminating the research findings.

### **Job responsibility**

- To work in a timely and detailed manner, delivering required outputs and activities.
- Take responsibility for day-to-day liaison across the team in India and UK.
- To be meticulous with documentation and update and maintain project records as and when needed.
- Willingness to relocate to Mumbai's peripheries in order to be close to fieldwork.
- To prepare for publication: project reports, policy briefs, toolkits and any other documentation when required.
- To deliver outputs on time and to agreed specifications, relevant to the overarching project(s) within which the work is based.
- To be meticulous in data archiving to fulfill commitments to open access.
- To support organization of stakeholder workshops in India
- To present research findings and papers at project conferences in India and UK and to contribute to the international visibility of project findings.

- Any other related work as deemed relevant by project PIs.

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Essential or Desirable</b>	<b>Assessment method (Application/Interview)</b>
<b>Qualifications, experience and knowledge</b>		
PhD awarded in Human Geography with specialization in urban/development geography.	E	A
Experience or interest in digital democracy and urban governance	D	A
Strong inter-personal and written communication skills	E	A, I
Expertise in social research methods (interviews and focus groups)	E	A, I
Knowledge/understanding of digital and participatory methods	D	A, I
<b>Skills and abilities</b>		
Skills in data handling, coding and management	E	I
Understanding of and compliance with ethical issues and effective risk management (including working with vulnerable groups)	E	I
Skills in data archiving	D	I
Ability to write for lay and policy audiences	E	I
<b>Personal attributes</b>		
Ability to work independently as part of a team	E	A, I
Ability to take initiative, show effective time management	E	I
Have excellent interpersonal skills and be able to work with marginal social groups	E	I

### **Procedure for application**

Candidates can send their application with the following details.

- a. 2-page statement of motivation outlining how they will meet the job responsibilities.
- b. 2-page CV outlining Education, Employment, Publications, Conference presentations and Research experience.
- c. Names and contact details of 3 academic referees (references will be sought if shortlisted for interview)

d. 2 samples of writing (book/thesis chapter or journal article)

**Note: A Single PDF file containing all the sections (a.b.c.d) with name and contact details on the first page should be emailed to [recruitment.pdra.tiss@gmail.com](mailto:recruitment.pdra.tiss@gmail.com)**

**The last date** of receiving the application is by *28<sup>th</sup> February 2021*. The subject line of email should be '**Application for the post of PDRA**'. Late applications shall be rejected. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a virtual interview in early March 2021 (date to be communicated).

The selected candidate is expected to join the job on **1 April 2021**.

For any enquiries, contact

**Professor Abdul Shaban**

(Email: [shaban@tiss.edu](mailto:shaban@tiss.edu))

Tata Institute of Social Sciences