

# Job Description

## Post-doctoral Research Fellow

**Department: School of Development Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai**

**Salary: INR 78000 per month**

**(The post is funded for a maximum of 3 years. Start date: 1st January 2023 or at an agreed date after)**

**Location: MUMBAI**

**Last date of submission of application: 15 October 2022.**

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### Reports to

Professor Abdul Shaban and Professor Ayona Datta (UCL)

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### Context

The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) is a Deemed to be a University under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act (UGC), 1956, and has been engaged cutting edge research, teaching and community engagements.

The Post-Doctoral Fellow will be part of an international research team led Professor Abdul Shaban, as research collaborator from TISS, and by Prof. Ayona Datta (PI), in University College London (UCL). This is a five year (2022-2026) European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant - funded project, "Regional Futures: The territorial politics of digitalization-as-urbanisation in the global south".

**The appointment will be from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023, full-time and is funded for three years. The term and conditions of appointed will be as per the TISS Project Staff Appointment Rule.**

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### Main purpose of the job

Reporting directly to Professor Abdul Shaban, the post holder will work as part of an international research team led by Prof. Ayona Datta on the European Research

Council (ERC) Advanced Grant-funded project, "Regional Futures: The territorial politics of digitalization-as-urbanisation in the global south". With expertise across urban and digital geography in the global south, the post holder will work closely with team members to develop a programme of research on regional futures on the global south along three thematic foci: digitalising state, information infrastructures and territorial politics. Team members are located in Mumbai, Nairobi and Guadalajara, and the post-holder will be expected to work closely with team members and will also report regularly to Prof. Datta as project lead. Besides proficiency in English, the fluency in speaking and reading Hindi and Marathi will be added advantage. **See the project website for further details:**

[www.regionalfutures.org](http://www.regionalfutures.org)

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### Duties and responsibilities

- Work in a highly collaborative manner with team members and maintain regular communication with PI and across the team.
- Identify and make contact with key informants and stakeholders in order to carry out the required programme of research.
- Develop in collaboration with team members, novel methods for studying the digitalizing state and information infrastructures.
- Conduct field research in order to collect relevant and high quality data and work collaboratively with other team members.

- Transcribe and translate documents, audio/video clips and field interviews from local language to English.
- Contribute to coding and analysis of data for the project in collaboration with other team members and using team approved software. This will include interviews, interpretation of observations and documentary analysis.
- Conduct research in an ethical manner and follow all ethical protocols of TISS, UCL and ERC.
- Record, transfer and safely store (according to Data Protection rules of all participating countries) interview material, transcripts, documents and personal information for the purposes of research.
- Be meticulous in data archiving to fulfill commitments of all participating countries to open access, and where necessary undertake training to fulfill these requirements.
- Be efficient in personal time-management and be meticulous in maintaining time-sheets to fulfill funder obligations.
- Maintain detailed and accurate records of all project documentation including team meetings and communications.
- Contribute to the project website through blogs, reports, working papers, op-eds, podcasts and other public facing outputs.
- Co-organise and lead at least 3 local stakeholder workshops in line with project objectives.
- Make an active contribution to individual and collaborative research outputs, publishing edited volumes, internationally leading journal papers and other academic and public outputs.
- To deliver outputs on time and to agreed specifications with project PI and other team members.
- Assist in and provide support to project team during field visits.
- Contribute to the dissemination of project findings in appropriate academic and stakeholder settings.
- Maintain own continuing professional development through the above activities.

As duties and responsibilities change the job description will be reviewed and amended in consultation with the post holder. Job descriptions cannot be exhaustive and so the post holder will carry out any other duties within

the scope, spirit and purpose of the job as requested by the Professor Abdul Shaban and/or PI (Prof. Datta). The post holder will actively follow and promote all University policies including Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policies.

The post holder will carry out duties in a resource efficient way and actively support University Sustainability Strategy, policies and objectives within the remit of the role. The post holder will maintain an awareness and observation of Fire and Health and other Safety Regulations.

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### How to apply:

Applications should include:

- Your full CV (max 5 pages including publications)
- A 2 page statement, based on the information on the project website, about how your current research interests fit into the “Regional Futures” project.
- A 500 word methodology (excluding references from the word count) for studying information infrastructures in a rapidly digitalising peripheral municipality of MUMBAI (MMR), in a way that would advance the overall goals of the project.
- **The applicants should ensure that they provide the list of ‘Person Sepcification’ given below (in the order provided) and how they fullfil the criteria.**

**Shortlisted candidates will be asked to share two pieces of published writing with the panel before interview.**

Informal enquiries may be made to Professor Abdul Shaban ([shaban@tiss.edu](mailto:shaban@tiss.edu)) and /or Prof. Ayona Datta ([a.datta@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.datta@ucl.ac.uk)).

The application should include a single PDF file including the above document above and emailed to [recruitment.pdra.tiss@gmail.com](mailto:recruitment.pdra.tiss@gmail.com) on or before 15 October 2022.

# Person Specification

Criteria	Essential [E] or Desirable [D]	Assessment method (Application [A] /Interview [I] )
<b>Qualifications, experience and knowledge</b>		
PhD in Human Geography/Regional Planning (or cognate fields) with specialisation in organisational studies and/or information infrastructures.	E	A
Publication of own research relevant to the project in international refereed journals.	D	A
Research experience in urban contexts relevant to the research project in Mumbai, India	E	A, I
Knowledge of key debates on organisational studies and information infrastructures	E	A, I
Knowledge of key debates in urban studies and/or digital geographies	D	A, I
Knowledge/understanding of the politics of regional urbanisation in the global south	D	A, I
Knowledge/understanding of municipal governance in India	E	A, I
Experience of working with government stakeholders, and/or doing research on public sector organisations at national or local levels.	E	A, I
Knowledge and experience of using methods in library/archival sciences and/or organisational studies	D	A, I
Knowledge/understanding of planning and mapping databases including but not limited to GIS platforms.	D	A, I
Experience with using qualitative research methods, including in-depth interviews with stakeholders, archival/document searches, ethnography, discourse analysis.	E	A, I
Experience of developing and/or working with novel social sciences research methods related to information infrastructures.	D	A, I
Experience of and enthusiasm for collaborative and team-based working	E	A, I
<b>Skills and abilities</b>		
Excellent interpersonal, oral and written communication skills, including in local languages relevant to the research project	E	A, I
Fluency in speaking and reading Hindi and/or Marathi	E	A, I

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Essential [E] or Desirable [D]</b>	<b>Assessment method (Application [A] /Interview [I] )</b>
Ability to undertake independent research using novel methodologies	E	A, I
Ability to undertake independent research in Mumbai	E	A, I
Skills in detailed and timely recordkeeping and documentation	E	A, I
Ability to track information flows and identify organisational power networks in research contexts	E	A, I
Ability to write scholarly research outputs which make a contribution to digital, urban and regional studies	E	A, I
<b>Personal attributes</b>		
Ability to work independently as well as part of a team	E	A, I
Ability to take initiative and deliver to deadlines	E	I
Have excellent interpersonal skills and be able to work across cultural contexts	E	A, I
Maintain regular and effective communication across team	E	I
Show effective time management and work efficiently across geographical time zones.	E	I
Show meticulous attention to detail	E	A, I
Respond proactively and appropriately to the needs of project team, stakeholder, research participants and partners.	E	I
Making inclusivity, diversity and (inter) cultural awareness core to actions and decision-making for self and team	E	I

**Professor Abdul Shaban**

[Project Director, TISS]