



Job Title: Research Associate (Domestic Slavery in Late Antiquity)

Grade: 7

Salary: £39,355 to £45,413 per annum

Department: School of History, Politics and International Relations

Hours/Contract: Full-time, fixed term contract for 15 months or until 30 September 2026, whichever sooner.

Reference: 11322

Role Purpose

To conduct original research for the European Research Council funded project DoSSE (ID number: 101001429) during its final phases of activity. You will work closely with other scholars as part of an innovative, established research team, under the direction of the principal investigator (PI), Erin Thomas Dailey. As a Research Associate, you will play an important role in the delivery of this major research project and contribute significantly to its outputs, thereby advancing the field of scholarship and your own research profile.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Your research will concern the sexual exploitation of domestic slaves in the greater Mediterranean world, from 300 to 900 AD.
- You will conduct research as part of a team of scholars under the direction of the PI, working to achieve the project’s goals. Your creativity will be encouraged and your independence respected as you work to provide an important contribution to the team.
- You will be proficient in one or more of the following ancient language(s): Coptic, Syriac, or Middle Persian, which you will use to examine historical sources produced during the period. You will contribute your findings and insights through discussions with your fellow researchers.
- These historical sources may include histories, hagiographies, legal texts, theological treatises, exegesis, papyri, inscriptions, and genealogies. In collaboration with the PI, you will play an active role in identifying the sources most relevant for your research.
- You will collaborate with your fellow researchers to compare your findings according to key themes: enslavement, manumission, identity, social hierarchy, offspring and legitimacy, emotive relationships, wet nursing, etc. The PI will direct this collaborative effort to ensure that it results in important insights about the broader processes of social transformation during the period.
- You will work according to a shared methodological approach that draws upon source criticism, literary criticism, social history, the history of ideas, and legal history. You will contribute to the development and application of this methodological approach.
- You will share your research findings with the research team through collective discussions, and with the broader community of scholars through conference papers and seminars.
- You will offer your research through one or more publication(s) in a peer-reviewed journal or a collection of essays, and you will be named and credited on the project’s coauthored academic monograph and sourcebook. The PI has extensive experience in the dissemination of research findings in each of these formats and you will be guided through the process to achieve your output goals.





Internal and External Relationships

- Regular meetings and collaboration with the project research group
- One-on-one meetings and milestone reviews with the PI
- Participation in conferences, workshops, and seminars in the UK and overseas
- Liaison with external advisors and experts

Planning and Organising

- Effectively manage your time in order to deliver your research
- Prioritise tasks within agreed work schedules
- Adapt daily and weekly plans to accommodate new developments and be flexible to the evolving priorities of the research project

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- PhD in History or a related discipline, chronologically focused on the early medieval or late ancient period*
- Relevant, peer-reviewed publications in print or forthcoming*
- Experience presenting research to fellow scholars

Desirable

- Prior participation in a collaborative research project
- Experience working with papyri, inscriptions, or ostraca
- Experience in the organisation of conferences, seminars, and/or workshops
- Experience working outside of academia in other professional contexts

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Proficiency in English
- Proficiency in one or more of the following ancient language(s): Coptic, Syriac, or Middle Persian*
- Evidence of the ability to work independently in pursuit of excellence in scientific research
- Evidence of continued development of subject expertise
- Excellent communication skills (clear, cordial, professional)
- Commitment to continuous professional development

Desirable

- Proficiency in other relevant modern languages
- Skills in palaeography, papyrology, and/or codicology
- Evidence of working effectively as part of a team

****Criteria to be used in shortlisting candidates for interview***





Reason for Fixed Term Contract

The reason for the fixed term contract is stated in section 1.9 in the summary of contractual terms in your contract of employment.

Criminal Declaration

If you become an employee, you must inform your manager immediately, in writing, if you are the subject of any current or future police investigations/legal proceedings, which could result in a criminal offence, conviction, caution, bind-over or charges, or warnings.

Supporting University Activities

As a University of Leicester citizen, you are expected to support key university activities such as clearing, graduation ceremonies, student registration and recruitment open days. We expect all staff as citizens to work flexibly across the University if required.

University Values

Inclusive - We are diverse in our makeup and united in ambition. Our diversity is our strength and makes our community stronger.

Inspiring - We are passionate about inspiring individuals to succeed and realise their ambitions. We challenge our community to think differently, to get involved, and to constantly embrace new ideas.

Impactful - As Citizens of Change we will generate new ideas which deliver impact and empower our community

Equity and Diversity

We believe that equity, diversity and inclusion is integral to a successful modern workplace. By developing and implementing policies and systems that challenge stereotypes across all aspects of our work, we have a culture that recognises and values the diverse contributions of our staff which benefits everyone. Our strong values of inclusivity and equity support our efforts to attract a diverse range of high quality staff and students, and identify our University as a progressive and innovative workplace that mainstreams equity, diversity and inclusion.

