Research Centre	The DCU Institute of Future Media, Democracy and Society (FuJo)
Post title	Postdoctoral Researcher Climate Denial Narratives
Level on Framework	Level 1
Post duration	Fixed Term Contract Up to Two Years

Dublin City University

Dublin City University (DCU) is a leading innovative European University. It is proud to be one of the world's leading Young Universities and is among the world's top 2% globally. DCU is known as Ireland's University of Impact, with a mission to 'transform lives and societies' and focuses on addressing global challenges in collaboration with key national and international partners and stakeholders.

DCU has over 20,000 students in five faculties spread across three academic campuses in the Glasnevin-Drumcondra area of North Dublin. Thanks to its innovative approach to teaching and learning, the University offers a 'transformative student experience' that helps to develop highly sought-after graduates. DCU is currently No. 1 in Ireland for Graduate Employment Rate, and for graduate income (CSO).

DCU is a research-intensive University and is home to a number of SFI-funded Research Centres. The University participates in a range of European and international research partnerships. DCU is also the leading Irish university in the area of technology transfer as reflected by licensing of intellectual property.

As a 'People First' institution, DCU is committed to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - a university that helps staff and students to thrive. The University is a leader in terms of its work to increase access to education and is placed in the world's Top 10 for reducing inequalities in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

Research Career Framework

As part of this role the researcher will be required to participate in the DCU Research Career Framework. This framework is designed to provide significant professional development opportunities to Researchers and offer the best opportunities in terms of a wider career path.

Background & Role

The DCU Institute of Future Media, Democracy and Society (FuJo) is seeking a postdoctoral researcher with, LLM, NLP and/or text as data interests.

FuJo is a multidisciplinary research centre focused on the digital transformation of media, democracy, and society. FuJo investigates how to counter digital threats; enhance public participation through democratic innovations; and secure the sustainability of high-quality journalism and media.

The post-doctoral researcher will work on an IRC Laurate project funded project COMDEL to study the transmission of climate denier (greenwashing) and rebuttal narratives in several media including text, image and video, through social platforms, mainstream media, and political speech and help establish whether deliberative assemblies can help elites move towards climate action and withstand lobbying and information campaigns from vested interests. This researcher will also work with colleagues at the Insight Centre for Data Analytics and will map narratives across social media.

There will be excellent training and travel opportunities. The researchers will be based at the School of Communications at DCU which is home to almost 1,000 students at undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD levels. DCU is ranked number 1 nationally in Communications & Media Studies.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

• Work with Large Language Models (LLMs) or Natural Language Processing (NLP) models as appropriate to undertake content study across different media
• Lead, write, produce, and ensure timely delivery of relevant reports (deliverables)
• Lead, write, produce, and ensure timely delivery of scientific articles
• Publish and present project research outputs at scientific conferences and other research venues internationally and nationally as requested by Principal Investigator(s)
• Regularly liaise with and report on progress to the research team
• Contribute to research, teaching and other activities of the research centres, as necessary
• Liaise with both internal and external stakeholders
• Support the Principal Investigator, Centre Director and research group in the design, development, and implementation of the broader research programme
• Engage in appropriate training and development opportunities as required by the Centre Director/Principal Investigator(s)
• Carry out administrative work associated with the programme of research as necessary
• Contribute to proposal preparation at the national and international level

Minimum Criteria

Applicants should have a PhD in computer science or social science. In addition, it is desirable that the candidate has experience in NLP, LLMs or text as data.

Candidates will be assessed on the following competencies:

Discipline knowledge and Research skills – Demonstrates knowledge of a research discipline and the ability to conduct a specific programme of research within that discipline.

Understanding the Research Environment – Demonstrates an awareness of the research environment (for example funding bodies) and the ability to contribute to grant applications.

Communicating Research – Demonstrates the ability to communicate their research with their peers and the wider research community (for example presenting at conferences and publishing research in relevant journals) and the potential to teach and tutor students.

Managing & Leadership skills - Demonstrates the potential to manage a research project including the supervision of undergraduate students.