



## Job Description

### Research Fellow in Technology-Facilitated Abuse (“Tech Abuse”) in Intimate Partner Violence Contexts

**Department:** UCL Computer Science

**Information Session:** 15 Dec 2022

**Closing Date:** 16 January 2023

**Interview Date:** Early February 2023

**Grade:** 7 (£38,308 - £46,155)

**Working Pattern:** Full-time

**Starting Date:** 1 May 2023 (or earlier)

**Duration:** 30 months

**Location:** London, Bloomsbury

**Contract Type:** Fixed-Term

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#### Reports to:

Dr Leonie Maria Tanczer, Associate Professor in International Security and Emerging Technologies

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#### Context

The UCL Department of Computer Science is the leading computer science research department in the UK. In the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF) evaluation, UCL Computer Science was ranked second in the UK for research power and first in England.

The “Gender and Tech” research group within the Department investigates the intersection points of technology, security, and gender. We are pursuing an interdisciplinary research agenda from two angles: On the one hand, we study how and why gendered assumptions mold our technological systems and affect their representation, design, as well as usage and control. On the other hand, we examine the dynamics that enable digital technologies to construct and reinforce gender and other social categories such as race, class, age, or sexuality.

We are an open and welcoming research hub for people interested in societal and policy relevant research questions. We train and support the next generation of scholars and practitioners comfortable in both social and technical research domains and value and endorse movement between disciplines, organisations, and sectors.

This role is meant to support the UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship entitled “Revolutionising Online Safety: Tackling Technology-Facilitated Abuse to Protect Victims and Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)”.

The Fellowship draws on findings from a “Gender and Internet of Things (IoT)” pilot study. It establishes the foundations to understand different forms of technology-facilitated abuse (so-called “tech abuse”) and to preemptively inhibit IPV perpetrators from abusing through digital systems rather than placing the responsibility on victims/survivors to re-actively adjust their behaviour.

To do this, the research team works closely with UK statutory and voluntary IPV support sector organisations and key policy and industry actors to study tech abuse perpetrators and utilise the gathered insights to improve the design of digital technologies and future-proof UK policies to address this new risk landscape.

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#### Main purpose of the job

The successful candidate will work on the UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship within the “Gender and Tech” research group, under the line management of Dr Tanczer.

The purpose of the role is to pursue high-quality research (i.e., data collection and analysis) and to collaborate with Dr Tanczer and other team members on the writing of academic outputs.

The Research Fellow will work on the following research questions and objectives of the Fellowship:

(1) *What is tech abuse?*

- a. Establish a consensus on tech abuse conceptualisations to create a measurement.
- b. Produce an online tech abuse database that monitors developments in the field.

(2) *Who engages in tech abuse, and why?*

- a. Examine pathways that lead perpetrators to commit tech abuse acts.
- b. Investigate the role of tech abuse in UK IPV perpetrator programmes.

The appointee is encouraged to use this position as an avenue to develop as an independent researcher and will be actively supported in doing so.

The post will run from 1 of May January 2023 until 1 November 2025 (30 months), in the first instance.

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## Candidate's profile

Please consult the selection criteria (See: Person specification) for details on the candidate's aspired profile.

We are looking for people that are passionate about this research topic, determined and motivated to learn (especially on their own), and have strong problem-solving abilities.

As London's Global University, we know diversity fosters creativity and innovation. We, thus, encourage applications from a diverse and broad pool of backgrounds and are committed to offer a fair and inclusive selection process.

We particularly encourage applications from candidates who are likely to be underrepresented in UCL's workforce. These include people from Black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds; disabled people; LGBTQI+ people.

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## Duties and responsibilities:

### Research

- Undertake **high-quality, original research** under the line management of Dr Tanczer and as a member of a "Gender and Tech" research team.
- Actively **co-create the direction** of the Fellowship and team, dealing effectively with problems and challenges which may affect outcomes and deliverables.

- Complete **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks as well as UK security clearance (NPPV3 and CTC)** to work with vulnerable groups and to handle sensitive data.
- Travel across the UK for **fieldwork/participant observation**.
- Engage in **secondments/placements** offered as part of the Fellowship.
- **Keep abreast of developments** in the specialist domain of "tech-abuse" and related disciplines (gender studies, law, criminology, computer science etc.) as well as policy, practitioner, and industry advancements.
- Prepare and **submit material for peer-reviewed publication** in high-impact national and international journals and conference proceedings.
- Prepare and **present research findings** in suitable formats to the scholarly community, external partners, as well as non-specialist audiences.

## Planning and Organisation

- Plan **own day-to day activity** within framework of the agreed research programme to allow for deadlines to be met.
- Ensure secure and compliant **data handling and storage**.
- Follow **security and safety principles/best practices** to protect the research team and all communities we work with. You must manage risks and appreciate the importance of maintaining professional boundaries when working with perpetrators of abuse as well as IPV victims and survivors.
- Keep **comprehensive records** in accurate, timely, clear, and reproducible manner of all meetings and research activities conducted.

## Administration

- Carry out **routine administrative tasks** associated with the research to ensure that deliverables are completed on time and within budget. These might include organisation of project meetings and documentation; financial control (i.e., work with expense claims); ethics, data protection, risk assessment of research activities.
- Provide **guidance and supervision** – as required and within the post holder's area of expertise – to junior staff and students who may need assistance with their research.
- Coordinate and liaise with Dr Tanczer and other members of the research group **over work progress and ensure research resources** are used in the most effective manner.

## Engagement

- Demonstrate **impact** in research and, through this, help inform social policy, technology design, and public life.
- Contribute to **dissemination and public engagement activities**, including the planning/organisation/promotion of events such as workshops, webinars, and Advisory Board meetings. Foresee the event's aims, expectations, and attendee's needs.
- Assist with the development of **promotional or educational material** including a website, database, monthly newsletter and other public-facing resources (e.g., infographics, factsheets, briefing cards).
- Support with (and help track) **media and policy engagement**.
- Liaise on a regular basis with **stakeholders, user partners, and colleagues**, including charities, community groups, law enforcement, policy actors, and/or industry stakeholders. Help build and expand the research group's contact network to share information and form relationships for future collaboration.
- **Represent** Dr Tanczer and the research group at externally facing events and meetings.

## Other:

- Pursuing academic excellence through **continuing academic, professional and personal development**.
- Participate in and contribute to **staff review** and development.
- Attend UCL/Departmental/Research Group **staff meetings, committees, and training**, as required.
- Demonstrate **zero tolerance** towards bullying, harassment, and discriminatory behaviour.
- Actively follow and promote all **UCL policies** including those on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- Maintain an awareness and observation of current **UCL Fire and Health & Safety Regulations** and procedures.
- Demonstrate ongoing commitment to excellence in line with the **Academic Career Framework**.
- Meet UCL's expectations set out in the **UCL Core Behaviours Framework**.

The above list is not exhaustive. The job description reflects the present requirements of the post. However, the post holder may be required to undertake other duties within the scope and grading of the role and as responsibilities change/develop. Job descriptions are therefore reviewed on a regular basis including at the

annual appraisal and subject to amendment in consultation with the post-holder.

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## What we offer

As well as the exciting opportunities this role presents, UCL also offers some great benefits some of which are outlined below:

- 41 days holiday (27 days annual leave 8 bank holiday and 6 closure days)
- Additional 5 days' annual leave purchase scheme
- Defined benefit career average revalued earnings pension scheme (CARE)
- Cycle to work scheme and season ticket loan
- Immigration loan
- Relocation scheme for certain posts
- On-site nursery
- On-site gym
- Enhanced maternity, paternity and adoption pay
- Employee assistance programme: Staff Support Service
- Discounted medical insurance

Visit <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/work-at-ucl/reward-and-benefits> to find out more.

**The successful applicant can also make use of the following post-specific benefits:**

- Conference travel budget
- Training budget
- Equipment budget
- Secondments and placement opportunities
- Writing retreats
- Media coaching
- Counselling

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## Application process

Please apply through the UCL online recruitment portal (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/hr/jobs/>) by 11.59pm on Monday, 16 January 2023.

Applicants are required to upload a CV (with a list of qualifications and publications) and a 1-2-page Cover Letter. In the Cover Letter, please explain how you meet the selection criteria for the post using examples of your skills and experience. This may include experience gained in education or employment.

References are not needed at the initial submission stage but will be asked from applicants that have been shortlisted (i.e., at the interview stage). Please ensure that your referees are aware and will be able to provide references at short notice, if requested.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a (approx. 45 mins) panel interview at the beginning of February 2023.

A pre-application information session will be held on Thursday, 15th of December at 4pm (GMT). The event will outline information on the “Gender and Tech” research group, the post, application requirements, and support and training opportunities offered to any successful candidate. It will also give applicants the chance to ask questions to the prospective line manager (Dr Tanczer) ahead of the submission deadline. The session will be recorded for those unable to attend. Join the pre-application information session here: <https://ucl.zoom.us/j/98004199841> (Meeting ID: 980 0419 9841).

Please let us know if you need any adjustments to the recruitment process, including the provision of these documents in large print, audio, or other formats. If we invite you for interviews, we will ask whether you require any arrangements at the interview.

Feedback will be offered to all applicants invited to an interview. We regret that we are unable to provide feedback at any earlier stage of the application process.

Informal enquiries should be made to Dr Tanczer ([l.tanczer@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:l.tanczer@ucl.ac.uk)).

We strongly encourage applicants that do not fulfil the job specifications for this role but are passionate about the research project to get in touch with us as more opportunities will open in the future.

# Person specification

Criteria	Essential Desirable	or	Assessment method (Application/Interview)
<b>Experience and knowledge</b>			
A completed <b>PhD</b> , or close to obtaining a <b>PhD</b> , in a relevant discipline	Essential		A
<b>Expertise and research interests</b> in intimate partner violence (IPV), domestic abuse, and violence against women and girls (VAWG)	Essential		A/I
Knowledge of <b>online harms and online safety</b> research, industry, and policy developments	Essential		A/I
Evidence working with <b>non-academic, external stakeholders</b> such as charities, community groups, law enforcement, policy actors, and/or industry stakeholders	Essential		A/I
A <b>publication record</b> , commensurate with the candidate's career stage	Essential		A
Experience in collaborating with colleagues from a <b>range of different disciplines</b>	Desirable		A/I
Research and/or work experience in <b>ethically challenging environments and with high-risk groups</b> (e.g., perpetrators of domestic abuse, IPV victims/survivors)	Desirable		A/I
Experience in <b>archiving and depositing</b> research data	Desirable		A/I
Experience in responding to <b>consultations and requests for policy briefings</b>	Desirable		A/I
<b>Skills and abilities</b>			
Strong <b>qualitative and quantitative research skills</b> (i.e., data collection, management, analysis, and presentation)	Essential		A/I
Excellent <b>written and verbal communication and presentation skills</b> to effectively engage a wide-ranging audience	Essential		A/I
Ability to <b>travel across the UK for fieldwork</b> and other research-related activities	Essential		A/I
Ability to pass <b>Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)</b> as well as <b>UK security clearance</b> (i.e., NPPV3 and CTC)	Essential		A/I
Ability to <b>plan for and work to competing deadlines</b> whilst maintaining accuracy and focus	Essential		A/I
Ability to <b>write up research findings for publication</b> in high profile, peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings	Essential		A

Criteria	Essential Desirable	or	Assessment method  (Application/Interview)
Experience in the <b>application of one or more of the following methods</b> (i.e., scoping reviews, Delphi technique, semi-structured interviews, focus groups, ethnographic observations/fieldwork, multiple-criteria decision analysis, and usability studies)	Desirable		A/I
Additional <b>language skills</b> of other main languages commonly spoken in the UK (i.e., Polish, Punjabi, Urdu, Bengali, Arabic, French)	Desirable		A/I
Ability to <b>plan, coordinate, and run events</b> such as workshops, focus groups or stakeholder meetings	Desirable		A/I
<b>Public dissemination competency</b> to convey research findings via a range of different media (i.e., social media, newsletters, factsheets, infographics, briefing cards, blog posts, press releases, opinion pieces).	Desirable		A/I
<b>Programming/data science skills</b> (preferably Python)	Desirable		A/I
<b>Website and database</b> set-up/maintenance	Desirable		A/I
<b>Attributes</b>			
Commitment to <b>high-quality research</b>	Essential		A/I
Interest in and enthusiasm for the <b>subject matter of the Fellowship</b> (i.e., tech abuse)	Essential		A/I
<b>Proactivity</b> and <b>attention to detail</b>	Essential		A/I
Ability to <b>plan and prioritise own work</b> in order to meet deadlines	Essential		A/I
Ability to <b>work as part of a team as well as independently</b> using own initiative	Essential		A/I
Commitment to follow <b>security and safety guidelines/best practices</b> to protect the research team and all communities we work with	Essential		A/I
Commitment to <b>pursue ethical research</b> in consideration of the possible impacts on vulnerable individuals and groups	Essential		A/I
Commitment to <b>continuing professional development</b>	Essential		A
Commitment to <b>UCL's policy of equal opportunity</b> and the ability to work harmoniously with colleagues and students of all cultures and backgrounds.	Essential		I