



University of Manchester Postdocs

Meet... **Julia Kasmire**

Where are you based?

Alliance Manchester Business School

Describe your research in one sentence.

I do computational social science on the evolution of socio-technical systems.

How long have you been a Postdoc? 4 years.

Tell us a little bit about yourself before starting as a postdoc.

Every five years or so, I would start a degree in a new field and in a new country. I guess I am an intellectual nomad.

What do you love about being a Postdoc?

I love that as a PostDoc my job is to go learn new things all the time. I love that I can travel to attend conferences, which are great opportunities to learn. I love that there are relatively few societal expectations of what a "postdoc" looks like, so I can express myself in the way that I look.

What do you find most challenging about being a Postdoc?

The most challenging part of being a postdoc is being near the bottom of the hierarchy – my opinion and ideas just don't hold much value in the eyes of some more senior academics and that is very frustrating. It means I don't have control over how things get done, which approaches are used, or how research is framed. This is particularly annoying because I feel that less experienced team members are a great source of innovative ideas while experienced team members tend to maintain established ideas. Moving forward means letting new ideas get a chance to sink or swim.

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What was your biggest achievement so far?

I won second place in a Halloween costume contest once...

What is part of your job other than research?

Promoting diversity, equality and inclusivity within the university!

What are your career aspirations?

To be a disruptor that overthrows the tyranny of REF and TEF. Also, to develop an agent-based modelling group at the university that becomes a world-renowned hub of forward thinking computational social science.

What's your passion besides research?

Everything! I love to knit, bake, do stand-up comedy, run long distances, lift weights, rock-climbing and be an amateur dominant in BDSM clubs. Ha! I bet you were not expecting that.

What's your favourite book or film?

Book: Snuff, by Terry Pratchett; Film = Harvey

What keeps you awake at night?

That neighbourhood dog that barks. Hush, doggy! Hush!

Who are you? (Describe yourself in 5 words)

Ambidextrous, flibberdigibbet, zen, manipulator, ninja

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