

Social Change Lab

Role: Director of Research

- **Application deadline:** 2nd of October, 2022 - 23:59 GMT. Candidates will be considered on a rolling basis so early applications are encouraged. [Apply here.](#)
- **Duration:** 6 months, with the possibility of extension dependent on funding. Working 37.5 hours/week.
- **Location:** London or UK preferred. Flexible remote working with access to an office in West London. Fully remote or overseas applications will be considered too.
- **Salary:** £38,000-£45,000/year pro-rata dependent on experience.

About Social Change Lab

[Social Change Lab](#) is a new organisation conducting and disseminating social movement research to help solve the world's most pressing problems. Historically, social movements seem to have been crucial in driving significant political, social and economic change. Despite this, there has been little research systematically analysing the effectiveness of these movements and if it is possible to recreate similar movements to further improve the world. Our research aims to address this neglected knowledge gap and provide information value to advocates and philanthropists working on a variety of globally important issues.

Social Change Lab is an organisation that combines the ideas of [Effective Altruism](#), a deep commitment to doing the most good with our available resources, with a practical understanding of how social movements operate.

About the role

We're looking for an experienced researcher who has several years of professional experience conducting research, whether that's within academic, nonprofit or other contexts. For the right candidate, there is also the chance to move into a role with greater responsibilities e.g. co-director. We have conducted some [initial research](#) that indicates that protest movements can achieve significant impacts, across a range of outcomes such as public opinion, policy, public discourse and more. However, the evidence base for social movements is still relatively weak and further research is required. The main objective of subsequent research will be to answer some of the following questions:

- What are the most common reasons social movements fail?
- What are ideal external conditions for movement building?

- What's the base rate for a social movement organisation to achieve large successes?

The successful candidate will tackle these exciting questions, and others they deem to be important, using a variety of research methods.

The responsibilities of this role

- Managing the research portfolio of the organisation, including which research questions to prioritise
- Taking ownership of research projects, ensuring they get delivered on time and to the appropriate quality
- Designing research methodologies for various research questions, balancing time, rigour, and available resources.
- Managing any other researchers, research volunteers or research interns.
- Conducting literature reviews of social movement, sociology and political science research and subsequent analysis of findings
- Conducting interviews with policymakers, social movement academics and social movement activists

About you

Skill and experience requirements*

- 2-4+ years' experience in a research role, whether that's in academia, government, or a non-profit organisation.
- Strong understanding of both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, preferably related to social science
- Understand the limitations of different experimental designs and research methods
- Skilled at synthesising research and understanding how a body of evidence may apply to real-world problems
- Strong written and communication skills, to express nuanced concepts in a clear, accessible way with a high degree of [reasoning transparency](#)
- Creative problem-solver with the ability to break down and solve complex questions
- At least a bachelor's degree in a subject with substantial analytical elements, such as Mathematics, Statistics, Economics, Social Science, or Natural Sciences.

*Don't worry if not everything applies perfectly - apply anyway! [Here's some inspiration.](#)

You are...

- Effectiveness-oriented and a strong analytical thinker. You are constantly on the lookout for how you can make the greatest difference in the world with your time and energy.
- Confident working independently without supervision (directing and executing your own research) and as a member of a small team.
- An open-minded thinker, motivated by a '[scout mindset](#)', who is ready to change their mind based on the evidence
- Well-organised, efficient, and can multitask effectively
- Willing to work hard to produce high-quality work
- Friendly and kind. We want to be a place where people get a lot done and have a great time while doing so

Bonus points for:

- Knowledge of [effective altruism](#) or experience working within effective altruism in any capacity
- A good understanding of prioritisation research and familiarity with concepts such as counterfactuals, expected value, marginal returns and cost-effectiveness analyses
- Experience within social movements for any issue

What we offer

- A job with the potential for huge impact - potentially informing philanthropists and advocates on the best strategies to solve the world's most pressing problems
- The ability to shape the direction and success of the organisation, by joining a small team in a senior role.
- For the right candidate, there is the chance to move into a role with greater responsibilities e.g. co-director
- The ability to work within the [Charity Entrepreneurship](#) office in London
- Experience working at an early-stage nonprofit start-up
- Flexible working schedule
- High levels of intellectual challenge
- Flexible salary depending on experience

Application process

1. [Application form](#) (30 minutes)

2. First written task (2-3 hours)
3. Virtual interview (30-45 minutes)
4. Potentially: A second written task (2-3 hours) or second interview (1 hour)

If you are unsure about applying because you think you may not have the right skills or experience, please err on the side of applying! We strongly encourage women and people of colour to apply for this position.

If you have any questions about us or your application, please contact James at james@socialchangelab.org.