



## ROYAL COMMISSION FOR THE EXHIBITION OF 1851

**2-Year Fellowship in Design**  
**£50,000 per year**

### **Design and 'Fake News'**

In an age where we are presented with 'multiple truths' uncertainty is increasing for many: absolute conviction in opinions may be based on limited or selective information. Sources of news and information are diverging and the population can be forgiven for not knowing who or what to trust if behind every idea lies an ulterior motive political or commercial. Clarity is needed more than ever. Designers are trained to analyse problems and reconcile conflicting requirements using imagination and knowledge to propose products and services that at best improve people's lives. To succeed designers need many attributes such as determination, but particularly rhetorical skills to persuade others of the ingenuity and viability of their ideas.

This year's fellowship is to examine the topic of verification, disclosure and honesty in the design process. It is intended to be wide ranging in scope, for instance potentially using harvested data to compare design promises with outcomes, or to create systems or tools to measure how products or structures or buildings (or infrastructures) are performing. The intention is to find ways of disrupting questionable information and to provide ease of access to facts about consumption.

A broad overall approach is encouraged, the aim being to 'make a difference'. The results of the Fellowship are expected to take the form of a design idea, with supporting research. Entries will accordingly be accepted not only from individuals but also from formal or informal partnerships. Candidates should be UK based aiming to carry out research over a 2 year period, culminating in either a personal mark of distinction (e.g. PhD) or a milestone output of significance. In all cases, candidates are asked to identify a mentor who can contribute to, and make expert and objective commentary on the candidate's work, and who will ensure linkage and promulgation of the work to the appropriate peer group.

The application form can be downloaded from the Commission's website (address below) which candidates should complete, together with an outline of the proposed project of no more than two pages of A4, plus a CV. Lavishly produced or illustrated submissions are not required. The full application should then be sent by e-mail, preferably as a PDF, to [royalcom1851@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:royalcom1851@imperial.ac.uk)

Based on these applications a shortlist will be selected and these candidates will be invited to provide a further, more comprehensive written submission before being interviewed.

#### **Key dates are as follows:**

**Closing date for initial applications**  
Second submissions requested  
Closing date for second submissions  
Interviews and final selection

**Monday 3 September 2018**  
mid-September 2018  
Thursday 11 October 2018  
late November 2018

[www.royalcommission1851.org](http://www.royalcommission1851.org)

