ESRC Collaborative Doctoral Award on Migration and Mixed Heritage Identities in a West Midlands City

The Economic and Social Research Council Doctoral Training Centre at the University of Warwick is now inviting applications for an ESRC Doctoral Studentship in association with our collaborative partner Coventry Ethnic Minority Action Partnership (CEMAP), to commence in October 2016.

As part of this collaborative project, the successful candidate will:

- Research and write a PhD thesis which develops an understanding of how categories of mixed-race, mixed-heritage, migration and local belonging are articulated in everyday talk within and across generations in Coventry.
- Contribute to academic debates around concepts of ‘post-racial politics’ and superdiversity, by considering how relationships to racial schema change over time and migrant settlement status, while focusing on the potential disruption of institutional categories of ‘racial’ and ethnic monitoring caused by an increasing mixed-heritage population and complexity of migration paths.
- Work in collaboration with CEMAP as an organisation providing strategic representation on Ethnic Minority issues across Coventry, to develop understanding of emerging complexities of identification, and how this can be negotiated in civic and political contexts.

Our ESRC studentships cover fees and maintenance stipend and extensive support for research training, as well as research activity support grants. The project is expected to last 3 or 4 years, depending on research training needed.

THE PROJECT

This is an opportunity for an exceptional candidate to undertake advanced academic training in research leading to a PhD, while working in collaboration with a locally engaged race equality organisation to produce relevant research outputs that contribute to strategic development and civic engagement in Coventry and beyond.

The PhD project will be carried out under the joint supervision of Dr Hannah Jones, Department of Sociology, University of Warwick; Dr Khursheed Wadia, Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Warwick; and Viv Brosnahan, Coventry Ethnic Minority Action Partnership.

During fieldwork, the student will be based in Coventry and will work closely with the project partners at CEMAP and remain in touch with the PhD supervisors to:

- Make contact with members of the two community organisations (the Hope in Unity older people’s social and welfare group and the Young Vibes/ACCYPP youth work group), linked to CEMAP, with the aim of constituting two focus groups each of which will meet approximately eight times over a year;
- Develop trust and rapport with potential focus group members in order to gain their commitment over a period of a year and enable them to be active in the research process, commenting on and shaping emerging findings;
• Make contact with stakeholder organisations in Coventry and invite ‘outside’ perspectives to alternate focus group meetings in order to provide new standpoints for focus group discussion, and enable stakeholders to participate in conversations with young and old Coventry residents.

• Organise focus group meetings which will seek to draw out themes around how mixed-heritage and complex migration statuses are understood in the context of everyday Coventry life, and the implications of these understandings for institutions and practices.

The student will be required to undertake advanced research skills training provided through the University of Warwick’s Doctoral Training Centre, and will write a full PhD dissertation on their independent research using the resources described above.

We particularly encourage applications from candidates who are committed to completing the PhD project, and have experience in community research and in culturally diverse environments, and/or a knowledge of Coventry or the West Midlands.

Potential candidates are encouraged to contact us to discuss any questions and their suitability for this opportunity, by emailing Hannah Jones: h.jones.1@warwick.ac.uk or Khursheed Wadia khursheed.wadia@warwick.ac.uk

Further details, eligibility criteria, and how to apply can be downloaded here http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/sociology/staff/hannahjones/phdemap

Deadline for applications noon, 18th April 2016

Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed on Thursday 5th May 2016

The successful candidate is expected to begin the studentship in October 2016.