ESRC DTC Collaborative Doctoral Studentship

Department of Sociology and Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, University of Warwick with Stan’s Cafe Theatre Company, Birmingham

The ESRC Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) at the University of Warwick, one of 21 such centres in the UK, embodies the University’s commitment to producing the next generation of leaders in social science research. Internationally renowned for its research excellence, Warwick is now inviting applications for an ESRC Doctoral Studentship to be held jointly between the Departments of Sociology (Faculty of Social Sciences) and Theatre and Performance Studies (Faculty of Arts) in association with our collaborative partner Stan’s Cafe Theatre Company, Birmingham to commence in October 2016.

**Project Title:** The Potential of the Arts in Contemporary Education

**PhD topic**
The overarching concern of the research is:

- In the context(s) of contemporary education in the UK, what is the potential of arts based interventions in terms of children and young people’s understanding of themselves, their communities and the wider world? In what ways might the arts and performance in educational environments contribute to a project of social and political change?

In order to address this, the research will focus on the educational work of Stan’s Cafe Theatre Company to address these and related questions which the candidate will contribute to. This research project brings Sociology and Theatre and Performance Studies together in a genuinely interdisciplinary way in order to interrogate critically the theory and practice of arts and theatre in educational settings, in the context of a contemporary ‘crisis’ around education and the future of young people. The approach to the research will be largely ethnographic, entailing embedded fieldwork with Stan’s Café and will draw on insights from art and performance methodologies in order to most effectively research the experiences of a wide range of different potential stake-holders.

**Supervision and mentoring**
The project will be supervised at the University of Warwick by Dr Cath Lambert (Sociology) and Dr Nicolas Whybrow (Theatre and Performance Studies). James Yarker, Stan’s Cafe’s co-founder and artistic director of 24 years, will act as the student’s mentor.
Application process

To be considered for this PhD, please email a single pdf document to:
socphdresource@warwick.ac.uk

This should include the following:

- a cover letter (maximum 2 pages) indicating your interest in the PhD and how your experience to date prepares you for the proposed research topic
- a full academic CV;
- the postal address, email and telephone number details for two academic referees who can comment on your suitability for PhD study (and who can be contacted in advance of the interviews)

The closing date for applications is Friday 29th April 2016. Interviews will be held in May at the University of Warwick. The successful candidate will be expected to start on 3rd October 2016 and will be located primarily at the University of Warwick, although it is anticipated that the student would spend approximately 12 months of their doctoral programme undertaking fieldwork with Stan’s Cafe.

The DTC’s ESRC studentships cover fees and maintenance stipend (if eligible) and extensive support for research training, as well as research activity support grants. For eligibility requirements please visit http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/esrcdtc/studywithus/eligibility/. A Masters degree is not a prerequisite for studying at the University of Warwick DTC. A range of training programmes are available based on an assessment of the applicant’s prior learning and training needs.