



Job Description

This form summarises the purpose of the job and lists its key tasks. It is not a definitive list of all the tasks to be undertaken as those can be varied from time to time at the discretion of the School, in consultation with the postholder.

Job title: Research Officer (mixed methods sociological research)

Department/Centre/Institute: International Inequalities Institute

Accountable to: PI Prof Jane Elliott

Job Summary

The International Inequalities Institute (III) is one of the world's leading research centres on inequality, its causes, and consequences. The Institute is active in several research areas and encourages interdisciplinary dialogue.

This post is for nine months from 1 October 2024 to end of June 2025. The post is funded by a UKRI-funded project entitled: APP34248 - UK Voices: new methods for understanding the impact of social change on individual lives

The role provides an opportunity to work on an exciting pilot project that aims to augment UK data infrastructure by developing a mixed-methods, repeated cross-sectional data resource. The ultimate aim is to collect detailed qualitative data on a very large and representative sample of the UK population which can thus complement established quantitative datasets.

The postholder will be part of a small interdisciplinary team and will be encouraged to engage with all aspects of the project. The three aims of the pilot project are to:

- 1) develop a protocol for a qualitative biographical interview study that recruits a large and nationally representative sample;
- 2) produce an options analysis for the different approaches to sampling and recruiting individuals to a massive mixed-methods study;
- 3) explore the potential of using cutting-edge NLP approaches to assist in the qualitative analysis of data.

The post-holder will also play a full role in the III research community through participation in team meetings, regular seminars, public events, etc.



Duties and Responsibilities

Range of Research Activities and Responsibilities

The post holder will work closely with the PI of the project Professor Jane Elliott and the Co-I team (Travis Coan (Exeter), Carrie Friese & Mike Savage (LSE) Gayle Munro (NatCen)) and will be responsible for:

- Assisting with preparatory work for the in-depth biographical interview, including by reviewing pre-pilot interviews
- Conducting a review of existing biographical interview protocols and topic guides to help identify best practice and to develop the protocol for the main pilot.
- Conducting qualitative analysis of two sets of archived and documented individual interviews
- Creating a protocol and project plan to make rigorous comparisons between the effectiveness of human coding of qualitative material in comparison with coding using automated approaches (e.g. using AI and Natural Language processing)
- Helping to develop and test a dashboard to enable qualitative researchers to interact with a corpus of qualitative interviews
- Writing up research from the project for publication in a variety of modes including peer reviewed journals.
- Presenting on the project at workshops and conferences
- Assisting with coordinating meetings of the international advisory board e.g. by developing the agenda and responding to e-mail correspondence
- Contributing creative solutions to any challenges encountered during the pilot project and ensuring that lessons learned from the project are captured to inform future infrastructure development

Activities relating to administration and management and/or School service may include:

- Playing a constructive role in the life of the Institute.
- Managing the activities of research assistants on a day-to-day basis.

All of the above subject to the contractual obligations imposed by the external funding agency and with the agreement of the grant-holder and Principal Investigator.

Flexibility

To deliver services effectively, a degree of flexibility may be required in the duties performed in order to meet the exigencies of service. Job roles may also naturally develop over time and ongoing substantial changes to a role will be discussed between line managers and their staff, with job descriptions updated as and when appropriate.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

LSE is committed to building a diverse, equitable and truly inclusive university. All posts (and post holders) will seek to ensure diversity and inclusion, while opposing all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, or social and economic background.

Ethics Code

Posts (and post holders) are assumed to have a responsibility to act in accordance with the School's Ethics Code and to promote the principles and values that the Code enshrines. The Ethics Code clearly states that the whole LSE community, including all staff, students, and governors of LSE, are expected to act in accordance with the principles which are set out in the Code. As such you are required to read and familiarise yourself with it. The School's Effective Behaviours Framework is designed to support this Code. It sets out examples for the six behaviours that all staff are expected to demonstrate, these can be found on the following link: [click here](#)



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Environmental Sustainability

The post holder is required to minimise environmental impact in the performance of the role, and actively contribute to the delivery of the LSE Environmental Policy.