



Further Particulars: Research Officer in Inequalities

The Post

Applications are invited from outstanding researchers for a twelve month Research Officer post as part of a programme of research on 'Challenging urban decline narratives: enhancing community resilience' at the LSE's International Inequalities Institute. The post will start on 1st June 2018, or as soon as practicable afterwards.

The Research Officer is expected to carry out quantitative research that supports a wider team at the III which is conducting innovative qualitative case studies of four contrasting towns in the UK.

The overall goal of this research project is to develop an innovative synthesis of both political economy and narrative approaches to resilience, and to use this to understand different urban areas in England; namely two estuary/coastal towns and two ex-industrial towns. We will use a multi-method approach to explore how these towns have responded and adapted to their respective economic challenges and whether their relations to larger urban centres have enhanced or undermined their resilience. Our core questions will be:

- How and why have these towns responded differently to broader economic and social changes?
- What are the political barriers and opportunities to fostering resilience in the four case studies?
- How have local communities demonstrated resilience and what challenges do they face?
- How have political and economic relations between these towns and proximate urban centres (i.e. London and Manchester) enhanced or undermined their resilience to these changes?

We have selected the four towns to be the focus for the project. These are Margate; Tunbridge Wells; Oxford; Oldham. In each case there will be a qualitative researcher conducting ethnographic, documentary and interview based research to address the questions above.

The job of this Research Officer is to support the team by conducting original quantitative research that will contextualise the four case studies. The post will also involve providing support to the researchers working on the case studies by carrying out additional interviews or research support as appropriate. The Research Officer will therefore be expected to work across all four locations and help synthesise the findings in collaboration with the research team.

The research team is composed of the core III team which will direct the project:
Prof Mike Savage, Co-Director of III;
Prof David Soskice, Research Director of III;
Dr Aaron Reeves, Associate Professorial Research Fellow at III.

The following colleagues will take responsibility for leading research on the four case studies:



Dr Sarah Cant, Principal Lecturer in Sociology, Canterbury Christ Church University, taking responsibility for Margate;
Dr Luna Glucksberg, Research Officer, III, taking responsibility for Tunbridge Wells;
Dr Insa Koch, Dept of Law, taking responsibility for Oxford;
Dr Jill Ebrey, University of Manchester, taking responsibility for Oldham.

Other active members of the team include:
Dr Neil Lee, Associate Professor of Geography, LSE;
Dr Tom Kemeney, Associate Professor of Geography, QMUL;
Prof Andrew Miles, University of Manchester.

The team will also be supported by:
Billie Elmquist-Thuren (III Research Assistant).

A more detailed description of the requirements of the post and qualities and background of potential applicants for it are given in the associated Person Specification and Job Description. The Research Officer will be physically located within the Institute.

The LSE International Inequalities Institute

This appointment offers an exciting opportunity to join a new multi-disciplinary institute working with some of the leading academics researching and teaching on the key questions raised by different dimensions of inequality.

The new Institute has been established by LSE in response both to the growing international concern about inequality and its consequences and to the high level of interest across all of the School's departments and disciplines in inequality. The Institute is intended to bring together existing scholars working on different aspects of inequality, to encourage and support new research in the area, to help younger scholars build their careers within the field, to provide a contact and dissemination point for relevant research across the School, and to support cross-disciplinary teaching. This includes a new MSc in Inequalities and Social Science and a PhD programme, which has obtained £1 million in funding from the Leverhulme Trust, both of which started in September 2015.

The Institute was formally started in May 2015, with initial public events involving the leading international figures Professors Tony Atkinson, Thomas Piketty and Joseph Stiglitz.

The Institute is also home to the new 20 year Atlantic Fellows Programme which will harness the LSE's distinctive academic excellence to lead an ambitious global leadership programme addressing inequalities. This programme will open up the creative environments of LSE and its global partners to qualified participants unable or unsuited to gain entry through standard academic routes. The programme is designed by LSE and its global partners to be a beacon of the Atlantic Philanthropies legacy for understanding and addressing international social, cultural and economic inequalities.

Institute staffing and associates

The Institute's Co-Directors are Professor Mike Savage (Department of Sociology) and Professor John Hills (Department of Social Policy and Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion). They work closely with the Institute's Management Committee drawn from across the LSE, including:



- Dr Laura Bear (Anthropology)
- Professor Nick Couldry (Media and Communications)
- Professor Frank Cowell (Economics)
- Professor Gareth Jones (Geography)
- Dr Insa Koch (Law)
- Professor Nicola Lacey (Gender, Law and Social Policy)
- Professor Diane Perrons (Gender Institute and Head of Teaching, III)
- Professor Alpa Shah (Anthropology)
- Professor Beverley Skeggs (Atlantic Fellows programme, III)
- Professor David Soskice (Government and Research Director III)

Other departments and research centres with members affiliated to the Institute include the Departments of Economic History, International History, Methodology, and Statistics, LSE Cities, the Centre for Economic Performance, and the Grantham Institute.

We organise regular seminars and our own conferences, involving academics, policy-makers and practitioners in relevant fields, in which its research staff are active participants. The Institute aims to engage actively with national and international policy-makers and other users of its research.

The London School of Economics and Political Science

The London School of Economics and Political Science is one of the world's leading centres for research and teaching in the social sciences.

At present it has twenty-one academic departments, five interdisciplinary institutes, and numerous research centres. The subjects taught and researched are all in the sphere of the social sciences, broadly conceived. The School also houses the British Library of Political and Economic Science, one of the finest collections in the world of social science materials. The LSE is an active participant in the nation's public life. Located in central London, the School enjoys a high level of interaction with Westminster, Whitehall, the City, and London's legal and media centres.

The School has an outstanding reputation in all the social sciences. The 2014 Research Excellent Framework assessment of UK universities, carried out by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, judged that it has the highest percentage of world-leading research of any university in the country, topping or coming close to the top of a number other rankings of research excellence.