



Further Particulars: Research Officer in Inequalities

The Post

Applications are invited from outstanding researchers for a twenty four month research officer post as part of a programme of research on 'Wealth, Elites and tax justice' at the LSE's International Inequalities Institute. The post will start on 2nd September 2019, or as soon as practicable afterwards.

As part of its relaunch, the III has identified three major research themes. The post holder will work in Theme 1. The theme description is below

Theme 1: Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice (convenor, Mike Savage)

1: SYNOPSIS

Until recently, concerns with inequality concentrated on the nature and extent of income inequality, which has been growing in many nations since the 1980s. This field is extensively studied by economists (see for instance Atkinson 2015; Milanovic 2016), though important recent research recognises considerable variability across the globe and that by some metrics income inequality is not rising at the global level (Anand and Segal 2016). Whilst we are cognisant of this work, we will take up a key dimension which has been pioneered by Thomas Piketty's *Capital in the 21st Century* regarding the significance of wealth inequality. The focus on wealth cross fertilises with that of many III researchers (e.g. Hills 2014; Savage 2015) who have seen the accentuation of economic, social and cultural capital as a major feature of recent decades.

The starting point for this theme is therefore that wealth inequality is a major global challenge – with Oxfam's startling statistic that 8 people own as much wealth as the bottom 50% of the world's population attracting much critical concern. Our theme focuses on the global dynamics of wealth accumulation – including how offshoring and the strategies of wealthy individuals to avoid paying tax is a powerful driver of global inequality. We also consider how wealth accumulation is implicated in the rise of plutocratic, and sometimes anti-democratic elites, and explore the ways in which such groups may becoming more powerful political agents. Our theme is pathbreaking because of our global coverage, our use of newly available taxation data, the range of qualitative research we are conducting on elites, and our skills in conceptualising and measuring wealth inequality.

The theme will run from April 2019 till September 2021

2: THEME MEMBERS

Following a very successful theme planning meeting in early January, a cross disciplinary team of 23 core academics (LSE unless otherwise stated below) have been assembled who want to actively pursue this theme. Given the need to group specific research interests into a smaller number of clusters where researchers can actively collaborate with each other, the following four clusters have been identified. (Colleagues who could not attend the meeting, but have talked to me about their wish to engage in this cluster are indicated with an asterix*).

1: *Measuring and conceptualising wealth inequality, including trends over time*: Tania Burchardt (Director, CASE); Liz Mann (PhD student, CASE); Eleni Karagiannaki (Assistant Professorial Research Fellow, CASE); Camille Landais (Professor of Economics); Neil Cummings* (Associate Professor, Economic History).



2: *Global financial capitalism: offshore wealth and tax havens*; Andy Summers (Assistant Professor, Law); Tim Monteath (PhD student, Sociology); Eleni Karagiannaki (Research Fellow CASE); Camille Landais (Professor of Economics); Luna Glucksberg (III); Aroop Chatterjee* (African Centre for Inequality, Witwatersand University)

3: *Wealth and social mobility: How elites pass on their advantages* Steve Machin (Professor of Economics and Director of the Centre for Economic Performance); Sam Friedman*(Associate Professor, Sociology); Luna Glucksberg (III); Emma Taylor (PhD student, Sociology); Fabien Accominotti (Assistant Professor, Sociology); Murray Leibbrandt* (Professor of Economics, UCT); Kristina Kolbe* (PhD student, Sociology); Nicola Lacey* (III & Professor of Law).

4: *Developing comparative studies of plutocratic elites*: Katharina Hecht (III); Maria-Luisa Mendez (COES, Chile); Chana Teeger (Assistant Professor, Methodology); Sam Friedman; Aaron Reeves (III); Jonathan Mijs (III); Susanne Wessendorf (III); Paul Segal (Associate Professor of Economics, Kings and III).

The precise role of the post-holder within this theme will be negotiated upon appointment. It will include a mixture of independent research projects on some aspect of research relevant to the concerns of the theme, and the ability to collaborate with other theme members on collective projects. The Research Officer will also play a key role in fostering collaboration between the theme and the Atlantic Fellows programme. Care will be taken not to overload the post-holder with inappropriate demands and they will only be expected to work on a small number of projects leading to high quality outputs during their tenure.

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.

Theme 2: Inequalities in the Knowledge Economy (convenor, David Soskice)

The information technology revolution has led to huge changes in society. There are great potential benefits including rising productivity, shorter working weeks and rising living standards, but we are a long way from understanding how to harness them inclusively, for the shared benefit of all. This research theme will explore potential responses to the inequalities that have arisen in the labour market, where skills-biased technological change has led to a decline in mid-skill jobs and a polarisation between high and low quality employment. Looking forward, there is concern about future occupational redundancy associated with the development of artificial intelligence; and a corresponding concern over the consequences of the interplay between technology and globalisation. A key aspect of the research will be investigating the institutional responses to technological changes, including the failure of education systems to meet the increased demand for high skilled labour and sub-optimal investment in research and development. As concentrations of skilled workers and high-wage industries in prosperous cities are increasingly the driver of national economic prosperity, geographic divides in education, employment opportunities, political attitudes and cultural values have been thrown into sharp relief. Discontent with this uneven geography of opportunity is manifest in the rise of populist politics across Europe, the United States and Latin America, challenging the stability of democratic societies. We will develop an internationally comparative, interdisciplinary approach to exploring policy solutions to these fundamental issues, which may include addressing the problems of the quality and availability of education, training and retraining at all levels, geographic and social mobility, as well as the creation of quality employment and careers.



Theme 3: Economies of Care (convenor, Beverley Skeggs)

As yet there does not exist a global picture of the global care economy. We do have European studies, studies of forced migration and care work, use of technology in care practices, some financialisation analysis (eg CRESC) and some welfare state analysis. We also have excellent research on the legal employment issues associated with care (eg Hayes). Compiling all this research together is a crucial first stage. This will enable us to identify and visualise the infrastructures of care which are varyingly understood as economic, spatial, human, material and institutional mechanisms of support and agency, as well as of control and restriction. Dr Huda Tayob (UCL and LSE) is currently developing visualisations of forced migration and care. It is important to draw on the research that has been undertaken in key areas and not repeat.

The economic remodelling will require the quantitative mapping of different scenarios to explore the cost of care within different international spaces. The geo-political aspect will require the collection of qualitative case studies to support the quantitative and gap analysis eg the lived experience of care will require sensitive qualitative analysis dependent on the areas and issues identified in the gap analysis. The financialization element will require the financial tracking of companies.

The LSE International Inequalities Institute

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

The 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 an MSc in Inequalities and Social Science and a PhD programme, 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 for Social and Economic Equity 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. The AFSEE programme comprises one of seven ground-breaking Atlantic Fellowship programmes which focus on racial, health and social equity through a range of engagements around the world, as well as the Atlantic Institute.

AFSEE Fellows work together across disciplines and borders to understand the complex causes, nature, and consequences of inequalities and develop solutions for some of the most pressing issues of our time. The programme exposes Fellows to diverse ideas and perspectives, facilitates their participation in outcome-oriented projects, and helps them better understand others and themselves through active engagement in a sustained peer-led



community and exposure to critical scholarship. Residential Fellows are supported to attend the MSc Inequalities and Social Science in London, while also taking part in AFSEE modules. Non-Residential Fellows are supported to attend AFSEE modules set out over the course of a year, while maintaining their professional and personal commitments. Each track hosts up to 9 Fellows each year. Following the completion of their active fellowship term, Fellows remain connected to each other and to the Institute, as part of global, action-oriented network working collaborative to address economic and social equity.

Atlantic Fellows with specific interests and expertise in the theme topics will contribute to the research of the theme, with a particular emphasis on fostering links between research and practical action. They will inform the development of themes, contribute to research projects, and apply the findings generated by the theme to influence policy and practice towards the generation of genuine, systemic solutions to inequalities.

Institute staffing and associates

The Institute's Director is Professor Mike Savage (Department of Sociology). He works closely with Rana Zincir Celal, Executive Director of the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity programme.

The III is supported by a Research Committee including

Prof Beverley Skeggs – Convenor of III Research theme 'Global Care Chains'
Prof David Soskice – Convenor of III Research theme on 'Inequalities in the Knowledge Economy'
Prof Gareth Jones – Geography and Environment, and Director of Latin American and Caribbean Centre
Neil Lee – Associate Professor, Geography and Environment
Insa Koch – Associate Professor, Law
Anna Plomien - Assistant Professor, Gender Institute
Sam Friedman – Associate Professor, Sociology
Jonathan Hopkin – Associate Professor, Government
Ellen Helsper – Associate Professor, Media and communications
Alpa Shah – Associate Professor, Anthropology
Andy Summers – Assistant Professor, Law
Armine Ishkanian – Associate Professorial Fellow, Atlantic Fellows Programme and Associate Professor, Social Policy
Prof Niki Lacey - Law
Prof Cathy Campbell - Psychological and Behavioural Sciences
Chana Teeger – Assistant Professor, Methodology
Neil Cummins - Associate Professor, Economic History
Prof Naila Kabeer – International Development
Prof Camille Landais – Economics
Prof Tim Allen – International Development/ Africa Centre
Prof Lucinda Platt – Social Policy.

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.