



BSA Postdoctoral Fellowship for Sociology at the British Library

The British Sociological Association

Location: The British Library, St Pancras, London

Salary: £32,000 p.a.

Hours: Full-time

Contract Type: Contract / Temporary

Placed on: 21st February 2017

Closes: 8th March 2017

35 hours per week

This is a time-limited post (12 months)

Applications should be sent via email to Kerry.Collins@britsoc.org.uk by no later than midday Wednesday 8th March 2017.

Short-listed candidates will be notified during the week commencing 17th March 2017.

Interviews will be held at the British Library in London during the week commencing 10th April 2017.

Interview panel will include representatives of both the British Sociological Association and the British Library.

The successful candidate will be expected to commence work during the week commencing 10th May 2017.

For further information please email Kerry.Collins@britsoc.org.uk

About this Fellowship

This twelve month Fellowship is an exciting opportunity to work with the British Sociological Association (BSA) and the British Library (BL) on a new collaborative project. The British Sociological Association is the pre-eminent learned society for sociological teaching, learning and research in the United Kingdom. The BSA's charitable purpose is to promote sociology. The BL is the national library of the United Kingdom. A core purpose of the BL is to inspire, support and stimulate research of all kinds through its staff expertise, collections, online services and on-site spaces. This Fellowship will be important to the BL and its users through providing a richer understanding of the research potential of BL collections for sociologists.

The BSA and the BL believe there are many areas of the BL's collections which have high value for the sociological community. The Fellowship is the first of its kind to work across our two organisations to reveal some of the untapped potential of these collections, for the wider benefit of the sociological community. The Fellow will consult with sociological researchers, benefiting from the BSA's networks, whilst also working closely with BL experts to understand the relevant, rich and varied resources of the national library.

The Fellow will become part of the active research community at the BL, benefiting from the expert knowledge of Library curators to develop a deep understanding of the national collection. They will develop transferable skills in cross-institutional collaborations, working closely with the Research Development Team at the BL, and the Chief Executive and Chair of the BSA. The Fellow will have staff level access to BL collections and will have the opportunity to undertake BL training courses (for example in Digital Scholarship). They will develop a range of transferable skills, including report writing and presenting to a non-academic audience and working with archives and digital archives.

Key areas of responsibility

Working closely with the supervisory team, the Fellow will:

- undertake a strategic scoping study to explore and identify one or more areas of the contemporary British Library collections, digital resources and datasets which hold potential for sociologists

- consult with the sociological community via BSA networks to understand how BL collections inform and support sociological research
- based on their findings, provide a set of recommendations to the BL and the BSA Board
- have the opportunity to explore the value of BL collections for their own research interests
- work with the Research Development Team at the BL to identify potential co-sponsors and funders for future projects for the BSA and BL as partners
- communicate to sociological audiences and the public via blogs and social media

Minimum requirements (essential)

- A doctorate from a UK university in sociology or a closely allied subject
- Excellent written, oral and presentation skills with an ability to present to and discuss complex arguments with different audiences;
- Able to work effectively as a team member;
- Proficient in Microsoft Office packages with skills in using social media and online technologies;
- Knowledge of the sociological research community within the UK;
- Experience of communicating academic research online, via blogs and social media;

Eligibility

- Candidates **must not yet have held a full-time permanent academic post in a UK university** or comparable UK institution;
- Candidates must have submitted their PhD thesis for examination at a UK Higher Education institution **not more than thirty six months** before the closing date for applications. Consideration will be given to those who have submitted their PhD

more than thirty six months before the closing date, but who have had a disruption to their career due to maternity leave, illness, family commitments or other exceptional circumstances;

- Candidates must be UK or EU citizens eligible to work in the UK.

Additional requirements (desirable)

- Experience or understanding of archival research and data mining
- Experience of consulting with stakeholder groups
- A knowledge of collections-based research including the use of non-print resources (for example, audio, visual or digital resources)
- Experience of communicating academic research to non-academic audiences;
- An understanding of the UK research funding landscape and process;

Hours of work

- Fixed term 12 month contract, starting 1 May 2017
- 35 per week over normal business hours
- Fixed term to end 30 April 2018