



BSA Postdoctoral Fellowship for Sociology at the British Library

The British Sociological Association

Location: The British Library, St Pancras, London

Salary: £32,800 p.a.

Hours: Full-time

Contract Type: Contract / Temporary

Placed on: 22nd August 2018

Closes: 19th September 2018

35 hours per week

This is a time-limited post (12 months)

Please send a covering letter detailing your suitability for the post along with your CV via email to Kerry.Collins@britsoc.org.uk by no later than midday Wednesday 19th September 2018.

Short-listed candidates will be notified during the week commencing 1st October 2018.

Interviews will be held at the British Library in London between 10th and 11th October 2018.

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 3rd December 2018.

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 the second phase of a collaborative project entitled 'Sociology in the Archives'.

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, within the key theme of 'Race and Ethnicity'.

This Fellowship will build on the first phase of 'Sociology in the Archives' which produced a scoping study to assess the viability of British Library collections for sociological research. In this first phase Library collections were shown to have good relevance for sociologists interested in research in 'Race and Ethnicity'.

The Fellow will be expected to build on this by undertaking archival research using British Library collections on a research topic, within the broad theme of 'Race and Ethnicity' which they will define in collaboration with the project Steering Group. Their project should maximise the use of British Library collections and could consider an issue such as: immigration/migration; identities (for example post-WW2); news and media representations; music, literature and culture and; government policy and public narratives.

The Fellow will be expected to work closely with the BSA and BL to develop and implement a plan for engaging the sociological community with their archival research. This could include traditional research outputs as well as creative and innovative teaching outputs.

The Fellow will be an employee of the British Sociological Association but will be based in London at the British Library, where they will become part of an active research community. They will benefit from the expert knowledge of Library curators to develop an understanding of archival research methods and the national collection. They will also make regular visits to the BSA's offices located in Durham.

They will develop transferable skills in cross-institutional collaborations, working closely with the Research Development Team at the BL, the Chief Executive of the BSA and BSA Trustees. 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 sociological research using British Library archives within the broad sociological theme of 'Race and Ethnicity', resulting in a research report, academic conference paper/s, a workshop and other impact and knowledge exchange activities
- build on the recommendations developed in the first BSA/BL Fellowship to improve the visibility of British Library collections to sociologists
- develop and implement a plan for impact and engagement with the sociological research community based on the Fellow's research experience and findings
- develop training materials in the use of archives to support research into race and ethnicity
- support 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
- have the opportunity to develop skills in writing funding bids to support their own future research career

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)

- An demonstrable interest in or experience of social science research in race and ethnicity
- Experience or understanding of archival research and/or 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;
- Experience of developing teaching materials.

Hours of work and package

- Fixed term 12 month contract, starting 3 December 2018
- 35 per week over normal business hours (with the opportunity for flexible working)
- Fixed term to end 2 December 2019
- 27 days annual leave, plus 4 days of special leave and bank holidays
- Remuneration of £32,800 per annum.

We welcome applications from all eligible candidates irrespective of their race, gender, gender identity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation and age. Where ever possible, and in line with the needs of the post, we are committed to supporting flexible working practices.