

JOB DESCRIPTION

Vacancy reference:	SRF33735
Post Title:	Postdoctoral Research Assistant in demography/quantitative social sciences
Grade:	Grade 6 (Point 27-29)
School/Department:	School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science
Reports to:	Dr Sylvie Dubuc
Responsible for:	None

Purpose

The postholder will join an international research team working on son preference and sex-selection in India and China as well as to provide support on an ongoing ESRC funded research project on similar topic in the UK.

The role will work closely with Professor Sylvie Dubuc (Principal Investigator; Reading) to prepare and analyse survey and other relevant data on fertility and childbearing practices linked to gender/son preferences. A strong background in demography and/or quantitative/statistical methods is required.

The post holder will conduct the demographic and broader secondary quantitative analyses, and assist in the preparation of relevant publications and communication activities, as well as contributing to the writing up of future research project applications.

Main duties and responsibilities

Building on previous research, the work will largely focus on a) quantitatively evidencing trends in sex-selection and son preference in India applying and developing appropriate models and b) compare results in India and China. Secondary, the postholder will support the completion of gender-based childbearing analyses of UK datasets (ESRC project: <https://research.reading.ac.uk/son-preference-uk/>).

Responsibilities of the post include:

- Conduct individual research and contribute to the collaborative research of the project;
- Assist in the design and execution of the project's quantitative work, conducting data management, method development, demographic and broader quantitative analysis with the support and guidance of Sylvie Dubuc;
- Update knowledge and understanding in the field or specialism to inform research activity and support the projects' empirical analyses;
- Participate regularly in group meetings; preparing and delivering presentations to the project team and research group at Reading, and to stakeholders.
- Support the dissemination of research findings and writing of project outputs including project report, conference presentations and papers for high-quality peer-reviewed journals. Assist in the organisation of meetings and conferences as required;
- Contribute to the preparation of bids to funding bodies;
- Manage and update the project's website; and
- Other appropriate duties as directed by the line manager.

Supervision received

The post holder will report to and be supported by Prof Sylvie Dubuc (Principal Investigator). The appointee will further receive guidance and support from partners and international advisors associated to the projects.

The department of Geography and Environmental Sciences is a dynamic, sociable and supportive place that would further provide social and intellectual support. The post holder will also be assigned a mentor and will join the Global Development Research Division at Reading, providing a very stimulating multidisciplinary research environment.

Supervision given

No formal responsibility, but there may be opportunities for teaching with the department as part of the staff development process.

Contact

Regular meetings with the principal investigator and other project team members and partners at Reading University/ online.

Terms and conditions

This is a fixed term post, offered full-time for 9 months but requests to work part-time (e.g. 80 or 60%) for a longer period will also be considered. The post is available from 01 December 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter and should start no later than 1 January 2021.

This document outlines the duties required for the time being of the post to indicate the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list and the line manager may vary duties from time to time which do not change the general character of the job or the level of responsibility entailed.

The University is committed to work-life balance and supportive of flexible working arrangements. The University supports its staff in many other ways:

- Its Centre for Quality Support and Development;
- Its excellent Nursery facilities;
- Its SportsPark;



The School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science was awarded an Athena SWAN Silver award in 2016, in recognition of its good employment practices in relation to women working in science, engineering and technology (SET). The Department also actively promotes participation in the Springboard women's development programme and the Aurora women's leadership programme.

Date assessed:

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title	School/Department
Postdoctoral Research Assistant in Demography/quantitative social sciences	SAGES/ Geography and Environmental Science

	Essential	Desirable
Skills Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to apply advanced statistical data analysis. • Experience using demographic methods and ability to apply appropriate methods measuring and analysing fertility • Working knowledge of a statistical software such as STATA, SAS, or R, SPSS. • Ability to work both as part of a team and individually. • Ability to perform under pressure and meet tight deadlines. • Ability to work under own initiative, strong organisational skills and attention to detail. • Excellent intercultural communication skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematical modelling • Experience working with DHS data. • Experience working with UK datasets, especially ONS-LS. Knowledge of UK surveys such a Understanding Society and Labour Force Survey would also be an advantage. • Experience with website design, maintenance. • Experience analyzing birth data. • Experience in developing advanced quantitative methods. • A publication record relative to career stage.
Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD/Post graduate degree in demography/ statistics, quantitative social science • A good honours degree in a relevant subject 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postgraduate level in population studies and advanced demographic methods

Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent knowledge of quantitative methods • Background knowledge in demographic methods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge in the field of Population Studies, family, childbearing and/or reproductive health. • Knowledge in the fields of gender studies. • Knowledge of the Indian context
Relevant Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience managing and analysing complex, large datasets. • Experience of advanced quantitative methods • Experience of producing quantitative demographic research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience working on fertility projects • Experience of longitudinal data analysis (eg event history analysis ...).
Disposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to work effectively, independently and as part of a team. • A strong interest in the subject matter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enthusiasm to work in an international team.

Completed by: Sylvie Dubuc	Date: 10 September 2020
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