

JOB DESCRIPTION

Vacancy reference:	SRF19583
Post Title:	Postdoctoral Research Assistant in quantitative social sciences/demography
Grade:	Grade 6
School/Department:	School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science
Reports to:	Dr Sylvie Dubuc
Responsible for:	None

Purpose

We are seeking a Postdoctoral Research Assistant to join a multi-disciplinary team working on the ESRC funded research project, entitled: 'Son preference and sex selection against females in the UK: Evidence, causes, trends and implications' (2017 – 2020; Grant Ref: ES/N01877X/1).

This is an exciting opportunity for a highly motivated research scientist with a strong background in quantitative/statistical methods. The Postdoctoral Research Assistant will work closely with Dr Sylvie Dubuc (PI on the project, Reading) and support the development of the research project, analysing family childbearing dynamics with respect to gender/son preferences among specific Asian communities in the UK.

The post holder will conduct the demographic and broader secondary quantitative analyses, and assist in the preparation of relevant publications and other activities linked to the project.

Main duties and responsibilities

Building on previous research, the work will focus on a) quantitatively evidencing son preference and associated childbearing outcomes, b) exploring relevant available datasets in the UK and c) develop appropriate models.

Responsibilities of the post include:

- Conduct individual research and contribute to 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;
- Continually 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 project team, internal and external stakeholders or funders.
- 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 seminars 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 study team.

Supervision received

The post holder will report to and be supported by Dr Sylvie Dubuc. The researcher appointed will also work in collaboration with the other members of the team, notably with another postdoc researcher (qualitative methods, Sussex) and Co-I Prof Maya Unnithan (Sussex University/CORTH director). The appointee will further receive guidance and support from partners and international advisors associated to the project.

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.

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 at Reading University, Sussex University and Oxford University (ETHOX).

Liaison with the Department of Health (non-academic partner), and one/two weeks' placement with their analytical and policy teams (Department of Health, London) is planned. Liaison with other non-academic stakeholders associated with the project.

Meetings with the international advisory board.

Specific tasks may require broader contacts with colleagues at the University of Reading in departments and fields relevant to the project as well as external bodies.

Terms and conditions

This is a fixed term post, offered full-time for 22 months but requests to work part-time (e.g. 80%) for a longer period will also be considered. The post is available from 15 September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter.

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.

Date assessed: 13/06/2017

PERSON SPECIFICATION

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

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Skills Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to apply advanced statistical data analysis. • Ability to apply appropriate demographic methods • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematical modelling • Experience working with UK surveys, such as Understanding Society LS-Census and Labour Force Survey. • Experience with website design, maintenance. • Experience using demographic methods • Experience analysing birth data. • Experience in developing advanced quantitative methods. • A publication record relative to career stage. • Excellent intercultural communication skills.
Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD/Post graduate degree in statistics, quantitative social science/ demography, or other relevant degree with a strong quantitative background. 	<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 equality and/or migrant/ethnic studies.

Relevant Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience managing and analysing complex, large datasets. • Experience of advanced quantitative methods • Experience of producing quantitative research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of longitudinal data analysis (e.g. 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 interdisciplinary team.

Completed by: Sylvie Dubuc	Date: 9 June 2017
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