

Understanding creative labour: Investigating the patterns and impacts of inequality in cultural and creative industries

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Supervision

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Project Description

The lives of creative workers are often situated within social, economic and spatial contexts typically characterised by fierce competition, insecurity and uncertainty (Watson 2012). Freelancing, entrepreneurship and precarity have come to form key elements of creative workers' professional lives and career paths across a range of sectors including design, fashion, art, music and film (see, for example, Jakob 2013). Although critical readings of creative labour and workers' living and labouring conditions have been developed in various directions, there remains a need to develop understandings of creative labour across at least two dimensions. First, there is a need for further research focusing on particular creative sectors, in order to complement and extend existing broader analyses of the 'creative economy' or 'creative industries' more generally (Hrats and Leslie 2014). Second, there remains extensive scope to explore persistent patterns of inequality within and exclusions from creative sectors, which display enduring lines of division across gender, class, ethnicity, age, disability, life-cycle and location (Conor et al. 2015; Reimer 2016).

This project aims to investigate the patterns and impacts of inequality in one or more selected sectors of the cultural and creative industries, such as product & graphic design; architecture; music; art; fashion; film & television; or software & video games. The project also could take a focus which contrasted detailed case studies within specific local labour markets.

Candidates must have or expect to gain a first or strong upper second class degree, in an appropriate discipline, not necessarily Geography. Details on how to apply are available from Julie Drewitt, email geog-pgr.fshs@soton.ac.uk. Informal enquiries may be made to Dr Suzanne

Reimer (email S.Reimer@soton.ac.uk). For the latest information on postgraduate opportunities within Geography and Environment, please visit our website at http://www.southampton.ac.uk/geography/postgraduate/research_degrees/studentships.page?

References

- Conor, B., Gill, R. and Taylor, S., 2015. Gender and creative labour. *The Sociological Review*, 63: 1-22.
- Hracs, B. J. and D. Leslie 2014. Aesthetic labour in creative industries: the case of independent musicians in Toronto, Canada. *Area* 46: 66-73.
- Jakob, D. 2013 Crafting your way out of the recession? New craft entrepreneurs and the global economic downturn. *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society* 6: 127-140.
- Reimer, S., 2016. 'It's just a very male industry': gender and work in UK design agencies. *Gender, Place & Culture*, 23: 1033-1046.
- Watson, A. 2012. Sociological perspectives on the economic geography of projects: the case of project-based working in the creative industries *Geography Compass* 6: 617-631.

Funding Notes

This is one of a range of topics currently being advertised. Funding will go to the project(s) with the best applicant(s). The studentship is funded at RCUK level, currently £14,296 per annum, with an RTSG of £750, together with home rate tuition fees. The studentship is for three years. The studentship will fully support British and EU nationals only. International students can apply but they must be able to meet the difference between home/EU and International tuition fees themselves.