Reducing domestic abuse harms: a multi-agency approach to working with perpetrators

Primary supervisor: Dr Katerina Hadjimatheou
Institution Details: Department of Sociology, University of Essex
Collaborative partner: Islington Violence Against Women and Girls
SeNSS Pathway: Sociology

Degree structure: a three-year programme

Project background
Domestic abuse causes serious harm to individuals and families and remains a persistent challenge for public services. In the UK, 6.5 million adults are estimated to have directly experienced domestic abuse (8.4% of women and 4.2% of men in 2018-19). Most services still place the onus on victims and families, to try to keep themselves safe, often by taking measures with a high personal cost, such as leaving their home. Few engage with perpetrators to stop the abuse in the first place. A failure to deal effectively with perpetrators leaves violent and abusive behaviours and attitudes unchallenged. And it risks displacing rather than reducing domestic abuse.

Islington Council Violence against Women and Girls Service has recently received £2million to transform its domestic abuse provision. Developing new and innovative measures to engage and deal with perpetrators is a key priority.

Project aims and objectives
This 3-year fully funded studentship will give a PhD researcher the opportunity to work with Islington and a team of expert academics at the University of Essex’s centre for criminology, to produce new findings and recommendations on how to reduce the harm caused by perpetrators.

In 2020 Essex’s Centre for Criminology was ranked 6th in the UK (Guardian University League Tables). Project supervisors have strong relationships government and with key domestic abuse organisations. The successful candidate will be supported to become an important independent scholar in the field and develop a strong academic career.

Supervisors: Dr Katerina Hadjimatheou and Professor Nigel South (Department of Sociology, University of Essex) and Karolina Bober (Islington Violence Against Women and Girls)
Training Opportunities
You will receive training in advanced qualitative and quantitative methods as well as mentoring and support to build a strong career in academia, government, public services or NGOs. A comprehensive package of training will be agreed in consultation with the supervisors. Elements of training will be provided by the supervisors, University of Essex, and by other providers.

Applicants: essential and/or desirable attributes/skills
It would be advantageous for the candidate to have experience of both training and experience in using quantitative and/or qualitative research methods. However, these need not be gained in a university setting. Experience of relevant research methods in a job setting would also be suitable.

Studentship Details:
This studentship can be taken as a +3 award (a three-year PhD)
- It will be taken full-time
- The studentship award covers your university fees, and provides you with a stipend of £15,285 per year. You will also be able to apply for small amounts of additional funding via the SeNSS Research Training Support Grant.

Residential eligibility
To be eligible for a full award you must be a Home or International Student.

To be a home student, you must meet the following criteria:
- Be a UK national (meeting residency requirements), or
- Have settled status, or
- Have pre-settled status (meeting residency requirements, including ), or
- Have indefinite leave to remain or enter.
- Have refugee status, S67 leave, Calais leave or stateless leave, with additional requirements to be met which can be found here.

If you do not meet any of the criteria above, you are classed as an international student and are also eligible to apply.

How to apply for this studentship
In order to be considered for this SeNSS studentship, you must first apply for a place to study University of Essex, noting that you are applying for the collaborative studentship. Please go to University of Essex, How to apply for a PhD for information on how to make your application.

You will then need to make a separate application to SeNSS for this collaborative studentship. Please read the SeNSS Collaborative Studentship Application Guidance Notes before completing our online application form. The Guidance Notes are available at the bottom of the following webpage: Applying for a SeNSS collaborative studentship.

Deadline:
The deadline applying to University of Essex for a place is 23:59 GMT on 18 January 2021

The deadline for submitting your application on FluidReview is 12:00 GMT on 01 March 2021

No extensions to this deadline will be permitted.

For further enquiries:
For enquiries related to the studentship topic, please email Dr Katerina Hadjimatheou (k.hadjimatheou@essex.ac.uk)

For enquiries related to your eligibility for this studentship, and the application process, please email: pgresearch@essex.ac.uk
About SeNSS
The South East Network for Social Sciences (SeNSS) is a consortium formed of 10 leading UK universities, all of which are engaged in cutting-edge social science research and training. The SeNSS consortium members are:

• City, University of London
• University of East Anglia
• University of Essex (the co-ordinating institution)
• Goldsmiths, University of London
• University of Kent
• University of Reading
• University of Roehampton, London
• Royal Holloway, University of London
• University of Surrey
• University of Sussex

SeNSS offers a world-class inter-disciplinary PhD research and training environment. It is committed to supporting its internationally recognised researchers and to producing the next generation of talented social scientists. SeNSS has been accredited as a prestigious Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the national body which funds research and training in economic and social issues.

We pride ourselves on our rigorous doctoral training programme, making the most of our members' diverse specialisms and offering our students a wide array of subject-specific as well as advanced training opportunities. SeNSS offers high-calibre supervision, driven by our members' emphasis on formal training and research culture.

For further information about SeNSS, please visit the SeNSS website