Patterns of victim-survivor utilisation of domestic violence support services

**Primary supervisor:** Prof. Sylvia Walby

**Institution Details:** Violence and Society Centre, City, University of London

**Collaborative partner:** [Women’s Aid Federation of England](https://www.womensaid.org.uk)

**SeNSS Pathway:** Sociology

**Degree structure:** either a three-year PhD, or a one year Masters degree, followed by a three-year PhD programme

**Project background**

The Violence and Society Centre, in conjunction with the Department of Sociology at City, University of London, is offering a fully funded PhD studentship. Funded by the ESRC South East Network for Social Science (SENSS), the studentship offers the opportunity to join a research collaboration between the University and Women’s Aid Federation of England and invaluable experience working at the intersection between policy-relevant academic research and support services in the domestic violence sector.

The research seeks to understand the patterns of utilisation of services for women experiencing domestic violence and the most effective configuration of domestic violence support services. The research project will draw on data from Women’s Aid’s On Track project and will use data modelling and inferential statistics to address the research questions.

This PhD would suit someone with an interest in pursuing a career in data analysis concerning violence and society, especially domestic violence and abuse, in either the University or Third Sector.

**Project aims and objectives**

There are three main aims: firstly, to identify the determinants of specialised support services for women experiencing domestic violence; secondly, to map patterns of service utilisation; and thirdly, to contribute to a sociological analysis of the gendered inter-connections between inequalities, violence, and welfare services. The utilisation of longitudinal data within this research project will provide a unique insight into the changes in trajectories, dynamics and typologies of domestic violence over time.

**Supervisors:** [Professor Sylvia Walby](https://www.city.ac.uk/) and [Dr Elizabeth Cook](https://www.city.ac.uk/), with support from [Dr Estela Barbosa](https://www.city.ac.uk/), (Violence and Society Centre, City, University of London) and [Dr Sarika Seshadri](https://www.city.ac.uk/), (Women’s Aid Federation of England).
Training Opportunities
A comprehensive package of training will be agreed in consultation with the supervisors. Elements of training will be provided by the supervisors, City, University of London, and by other providers and will include a range of training programmes including quantitative and statistical analysis skills for an applied research environment.

Applicants: essential and/or desirable attributes/skills
The best candidate will have achieved both academic excellence in social science and have knowledge of the domestic violence service sector and its use of data. The ideal student would have experience in the use of Women’s Aid’s On Track national dataset or similar dataset and both a good degree in sociology or a related social science and knowledge and experience of Women’s Aid’s data, and domestic abuse services.

Studentship Details:
This studentship may be taken as either a 1+3 year award (a one-year MSc followed by a three-year PhD), a +3 award (a three-year PhD)
- It may be taken full-time or part-time
- The studentship award covers your university fees, and provides you with a stipend of £17,285 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 who satisfies the criteria below:

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), or
- Have indefinite leave to remain or enter.

If you do not meet any of the criteria above, you are classed as an international student.

How to apply for this studentship
In order to be considered for this SeNSS studentship, you must first apply for a place to study City, University of London, noting that you are applying for the collaborative studentship with the Violence and Society Centre. Please go to City University of London, 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 City, University of London 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 Prof. Sylvia Walby (sylvia.walby@city.ac.uk)

For enquiries related to your eligibility for this studentship, and the application process, please email: researchsupport@city.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