

Ref: HUM-03737

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT

THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

SOCIOLOGY

LECTURER IN SOCIOLOGY

- 1 The University invites applications for the above post which is fixed term from 1 April 2014 until 31 July 2023.
- 2 Salary will be £33,320 to £45,941 per annum according to relevant experience
- 3 Informal inquiries may be made Wendy Bottero
Email: wendy.bottero@manchester.ac.uk
Tel : 0161 275 0267
- 4 Applications should be made on line. If you are unable to apply on line please request an application form by emailing hrservices@manchester.ac.uk quoting the reference number or by calling 0161 275 4499 (HR Services).
- 5 The University of Manchester values a diverse workforce and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

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Background

The **University of Manchester** was formed in 2004 by bringing together The Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST. With 15,000 students and some 900 academic staff, the **Faculty of Humanities** at the University of Manchester is equivalent to a medium-sized university in the UK. The Faculty encompasses Arts, Education, Law, Development, Social Sciences, and Business and Management.

School of Social Sciences

The School of Social Sciences (SoSS) was set up in September 2004 within the Faculty of Humanities (FoH) of the new University of Manchester. It is one of 7 schools in the Faculty and one of 25 in the University as a whole. It is second in size (just behind the Business School also in the FoH) and has 198 academic and research staff. The school is comprised of six Discipline areas: Economics, Politics, Sociology, Social Statistics, Social Anthropology and Philosophy. It has a highly developed research culture as demonstrated by its performance in the 2008 RAE. SoSS had an excellent RAE result across all of its subject areas. Sociology and Social Statistics came 1st in the country. Aggregating the results across the six discipline areas, the School of Social Sciences in Manchester is one of the top three (alongside Oxford and the LSE) in the UK. It is a leading international research school in the Social Sciences with aspirations to enhance its standing even further in the future.

Sociology

Sociology at Manchester is the biggest and most successful unit in the UK with 45 staff (including 30 permanent staff, 10 research associates and 5 temporary lecturers). Colleagues at Manchester have a diverse range of research interests. That diversity is underpinned by a shared commitment to theoretically-informed empirical research. That is to say, we engage with theories about how the world is changing and enjoy speculating with big ideas. We are totally committed, however, to subjecting such theories to empirical research drawing on a wide range of methods and techniques to collect evidence in support or otherwise, of these ideas. Moreover, we cast a critical eye over the methods we employ and the substantive evidence we produce. We are sociologists engaged in critical social science.

Evidence of our success can be found in the UK's Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) in which peers rate staff publications in Units of Assessment (UoA) according to their national and international standing. Throughout the 1990s Sociology was on an upward trajectory moving from a rating of 4 in 1992 to 5 in 1996. In 2001, we obtained

the top ranking of 5* (subsequently upgraded to 6*) indicating that Sociology staff at Manchester have international reputations for the quality of the work they produce. The manner of grading UoAs changed in the 2008 exercise, precluding straightforward grades and rankings. Nevertheless, Sociology at Manchester was rated the best – in coming top of the list – in the UK.

We have five overlapping clusters of activity and expertise. These are:

- **Stratification, Inequalities and Socio-Cultural Change:** including substantive interests in economy, stratification and culture. This cluster includes and the newly formed Critical (In) Equalities research group which draws together researchers in Sociology whose work focuses on power and disadvantage across a range of social categories including: race, ethnicity, gender, religion, class, age, caste, (dis)ability, sexuality and citizenship status. A primary objective of the group is to increase understanding of the interconnections between different social categories. It is committed to promoting dialogue with other disciplines, policy makers, NGOs and advocates to tackle the increasing problems of inequality.
- **Social ties, networks and social movements:** including substantive interests in social movements, social networks and activism and methodological interests straddling the quantitative and qualitative divide.
- **Personal life/everyday lives:** including substantive interests in families, relationships
- and personal life (for example, the study of parents and parenting, childhood, kinship, friendships and gender, sexuality and generation in everyday life) and methodological interests in innovate methods.
- **Cultural practices, consumption and sustainability:** including interests in theories of practice, cultures of production and consumption and interdisciplinary approaches to questions of sustainability.
- **Methodological innovations:** focused on innovations in survey research, and in advanced quantitative and qualitative methods, and integrating established and new methodological approaches for studying social life and the genuine mix of quantitative and qualitative methods.

Sociology has close links to various research centres at the University of Manchester, including the ESRC Centre for the Study of Socio-Cultural Change (CRESC). Professor Jennifer Mason was the Director of The Realities Node of the ESRC National Centre for Research Methods and Professor Mason is co-director with Professor Sue Heath of The Morgan Centre for the Study of Relationships and Personal Life. Professor Colette Fagan is a co-director of European Work and Employment Research Centre (EWERC) in conjunction with colleagues in Manchester Business School (MBS). Professors Nick Crossley and Martin Everett are co-directors of Mitchell Centre for Social Network Analysis. Professor James Nazroo is the Director of CCSR (Cathie Marsh Centre for Census Survey and Research) and of MICRA (Manchester Interdisciplinary Collaboration for Research on Ageing). Professor Dale Southerton is a co-director of SPRG (Sustainable Practices Research Group).

Graduate Teaching

Sociology attaches considerable importance to postgraduate students who are very much part of the research culture of the discipline area. We are a member of the North West Doctoral Training College (with Lancaster and Liverpool). We currently have over 50 PhD students registered with us doing a wide range of research projects. Funding for postgraduate studies comes from a variety of sources including the ESRC, the Ford Foundation and other EU and international funding bodies and governments. The University also supports students financially through a number of schemes.

We also teach over MA/MSc students on various programmes located within Sociology. Our programmes include:

1. MSc Sociological Research (ESRC recognized)
2. MA in Sociology

Students who have completed our ESRC-recognised MSc/MA programmes have subsequently been successful in obtaining grants to do PhD work. A number of other studentships are attached to ESRC Centres closely aligned to Sociology. The stock of sociology students, therefore, is strong although so is the flow of students who complete their studies in four years and move into academic and other high-level professional and managerial careers.

Undergraduate Teaching

Sociology is committed to excellence in undergraduate teaching. Its programmes include the BSocSci Sociology and a large joint honours degree in History and Sociology. We also contribute substantially to a School-wide BA (Econ) and the new BA (Social Sciences) degrees which allow students to choose from a range of social sciences over the three years of study. Student applications for all these degrees continue to be buoyant.

The specialist degrees are clearly structured to ensure all students gain a strong foundation in sociological theory and methodology. A choice of modules in second and third years allows students to take courses in a variety of areas including the study of animals and society, gender, sexuality and culture, media formations, race and ethnicity in the UK, the body and society and religion and social thought. There is a strong culture of student-centred learning as students do an 'independent' dissertation on a topic of their choice in their third year of study.

About Q-Step

Q-Step is a £19.5 million programme designed to promote a step-change in quantitative social science training. Over a five-year period from 2013, fifteen universities across the UK are delivering specialist undergraduate programmes, including new courses, work placements and pathways to postgraduate study. Expertise and resources will be shared across the higher education sector through an accompanying support programme, which will also forge links with schools and employers.

Q-Step was developed as a strategic response to the shortage of quantitatively-skilled social science graduates. It is funded by the Nuffield Foundation, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

Job Description

Your duties will include:

- Conducting research that is excellent by international standards.
- Producing publications of international quality
- Developing research projects and securing appropriate external funding for them
- Recruiting and supervising Ph.D. students.
- Offering excellent teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels including both the development of new courses and the support of existing courses
- Providing appropriate academic advice and support to students both individually and in groups.
- Contributing to the administration of the Sociology discipline area, as called for by the Head of Sociology and the Head of School.

QStep Centre specific:

- Developing and teaching new quantitative modules as part of the Sociology undergraduate curriculum
- Working with colleagues in Sociology and Social Anthropology to help incorporate greater use of quantitative data and skills training within the existing undergraduate curriculum, including dissertations
- Working with QStep colleagues to design and deliver a range of quantitative training activities and events as part of the Centre's 5 year work plan. These include a programme of Summer internships, a guest lecture seminar series, dissemination and outreach events and a drop in support service for dissertation students and their supervisors.

Person Specification

Essential attributes:

- A background in Sociology with a PhD in Sociology or a related discipline
- A strong commitment (both substantive and methodological) to theoretically informed empirical social science
- A track record of research and publications with the application of quantitative methods within Sociology or a related discipline
- Experience of designing, leading and delivering high quality teaching using quantitative data and methods in Sociology and/or related disciplines.
- Experience of using survey datasets in research and teaching
- Excellent skills in communication and the ability to create/participate in effective working relationships in the research context.
- Commitment to working within the team and management structures created for the governance and management of the Discipline Area