

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE - UNCOVERING HIDDEN INEQUALITY

VACANCY REF: HUM-029827

Salary:	Grade 6 - £37,694 to £39,906 per annum, depending on relevant experience
Hours:	Full time (1 FTE)
Duration:	Fixed term for 36 months
Location:	Oxford Road, Manchester

Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:

Name: Professor Kate Reed

Email: kate.reed-2@Manchester.ac.uk

We are seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic Research Associate to work on the ESRC-funded project, 'uncovering hidden inequality: developing new ways of doing death administration' directed by Professor Kate Reed in the Department of Sociology, University of Manchester.

The project starts on 1st December 2025 and the contract is for 3 years. The Research Associate will be based in the Department of Sociology in the School of Social Sciences.

'Death administration' refers to the tasks that must be completed after someone dies, such as notifying officials, dispersing belongings, and managing probate. We require a research associate to work with us on this innovative project, using qualitative methods to explore the relationship between death administration and under-recognised forms of social inequality. Working with a range of external organisations such as the National Bereavement Service, the project aims to establish the extent to which death administration processes create or reinforce experiences of inequality, and outline recommendations for ways to improve current policy and practice.

Working under the guidance of the P.L., the research associate will have responsibility for the day-to-day running of the project including management of the project website.

The duties of the post include:

Project Management

- Assist the PI and research team in the administration of the research project as appropriate
- Liaising with the project's Advisory and Engagement Group

Data / evidence gathering

- Conducting analysis of existing literature
- Conducting a situational mapping exercise using secondary sources
- Contributing to the qualitative data gathering and analysis
- Contributing to qualitative survey design
- Arranging and conducting a series of 30 qualitative interviews with research participants
- Contributing to research ethics approval, data management and security
- Compiling, coding, analysing and interpreting research data and drawing conclusions on the outcomes.

Disseminating Findings and Methodology

- Communicating material of a specialist or highly technical nature
- You will be expected to be a co-author with other members of the research team and co-produce 3 academic articles to peer-reviewed journals and a book
- Co-author 2 articles aimed at practice-based journals
- Writing up own research work for publications
- Contribute to a variety of knowledge transfer/stakeholder engagement activities including blog writing, evidence to Stakeholders, Policy Briefings and Infographics.
- Assisting the team in the promotion of the project through various social media platforms including the maintenance of a project website.
- Organisation of project workshops and seminars.
- Assisting in the organisation of a project conference.

The P.L. will provide a mentoring role throughout and ensure you have a collaborative role in the various outputs to flow from the research as part of their career development.

Person specification

Essential

- A doctoral degree in sociology or related social science subject, or equivalent status (applicants without a PhD must demonstrate equivalent status in terms of research experience, publication profile, etc.)

- Demonstrable training in qualitative and quantitative research methods including specialist knowledge of creative methods
- Experience of conducting research on sensitive topics such as death and dying
- Demonstrable experience in data gathering and analysis
- Proven experience in carrying out first-hand data collection and analysis of kinds relevant to the project
- An excellent command of written and spoken English
- Initiative, motivation, ability to work in teams and to liaise with other team members and project collaborators
- The ability to organize research activities, manage one's own time and quality standards, prioritizing workload and meeting deadlines
- Proven ability to author journal articles

Desirable

- Experience of working in research teams
- Experience of conducting field research in death and dying
- Knowledge of conceptual debates on social inequality
- Knowledge of facet methodology]
- Experience of doing research on social inequality
- Experience in knowledge transfer/stakeholder engagement
- Experience of web-authoring skills, social media engagement, policy briefing, blog writing,
- Experience of organising academic workshops or similar events
- Experience in research administration
- Evidence of emerging track record in academic publications
- Evidence of working collaboratively across organisational boundaries and with other disciplines

Background

The University

Sir Arthur Lewis received the Nobel Prize for Economic Sciences in 1979, in recognition of his work in Development Economics – undertaken here during the 1950s. He was appointed Professor at Manchester in 1948, at the age of 33, and was Britain's first black Professor. The School of Social Science main building is named in his [honour](#). Our staff are also located in Humanities Bridgeford street Building and the Williamson building.

The University of Manchester one of the top 25 universities in the world.

The University of Manchester strives to make our community a welcoming, caring and enthusiastic one, fuelling ambition with opportunities and support to help us all achieve our personal and professional goals.

The University offers a range of support for [new staff](#) a great [employment package](#) that includes good terms & conditions and pension schemes, flexibility in approach, family friendly initiatives, development opportunities and services to support your health & wellbeing. In addition, there is a host of other staff benefits and excellent campus facilities. We care deeply about career and personal development, offering a structured induction programme for new staff, an annual performance and development review, staff training for all career stages and mentoring opportunities to support your career development.

As a global institution, situated at the heart of a lively, culturally diverse city, we welcome applicants of all nationalities. To help international job applicants plan for life in the UK, we have put together some [useful information](#) on passports and visas, travel to the UK, accommodation and a number of other practical considerations.

Equality And Diversity

We have a genuine commitment to equality of opportunity for our staff and students, and are proud to employ a workforce that reflects the diverse community we serve. One of our guiding principles and values is Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and is at the heart of our activities and also forms part of our commitment to our strategic Goal Three: social responsibility.

Amongst many [awards](#), the University has held an Athena SWAN Bronze Award since 2008, and was one of the first UK universities to be awarded a Race Equality Charter Mark. The School of Social Sciences was awarded Athena SWAN Bronze status in 2017, and we will be applying for a Silver Award in 2021. We are listed in Stonewall's list of Top 100 Employers for 2020 and Inclusive Top 50 UK Employers and have been awarded the Disability Confident Employer by Jobcentre Plus.

Building on our Athena Swan Bronze Award, the School of Social Sciences is working hard to enhance the diversity of both its staff and student communities. We currently have 15 pledges for activities to support staff and students. We run annual [pre-university courses](#) in criminology, economics, philosophy, politics, sociology and social anthropology for local state school students as well as an on-line option for those further afield and the [Pathways to Law](#) Programme for those who meet widening-participation criteria; we also participate in the University-wide [Manchester Access Programme](#).

The Faculty of Humanities

The [Faculty of Humanities](#) encompasses academic areas as diverse as Arts, Education, Law, Social Sciences and Business & Management. With over 16,000 students and some 1200 academic staff, it is the largest Faculty of the Humanities in the UK and is equivalent to a medium-sized university. All the disciplines in the Faculty recruit students globally and the overwhelming majority of our academics have international reputations for the quality of their research. The University is committed to the ongoing enhancement of the international profile of the Faculty of Humanities. The School of Social Sciences is one of four Schools in the Faculty.

The School of Social Sciences

The [School of Social Sciences](#) (SoSS), within the Faculty of Humanities, is home to eight distinct disciplines, the Departments of: Criminology, Economics, Law, Politics, Philosophy, Social

Anthropology, Social Statistics and Sociology. The School comprises one of the largest collections of social scientists and legalistic Scholars in the UK with over 330 academic and research staff, each of whom is supported with an annual research allowance, and around 100 Professional Service staff.

The School's international and national reputations in its constituent disciplines are reflected in the substantial external research income that it generates, ESRC recognition for training PhD students and success in securing ESRC and AHRC studentships for research postgraduates. Embracing the full range of quantitative and qualitative research methods, there are over 200 research students registered in the School supported by more than 30, annually awarded, internally funded studentships,

Individual and collaborative research is supported by the School's Research Office, whose staff provide assistance and expertise in applying for external funding and managing externally funded projects. We operate a one-semester-in-seven research leave scheme for all permanent staff on standard research and teaching contracts. Permanent academic staff, and temporary staff not on externally-funded contracts, are entitled to a generous annual research allowance (normally up to £2,000, or £1,000 for staff on teaching-focused contracts), which can be spent on a wide variety of activities including attending conferences, running research events at Manchester, and casual research assistance. The University Library is one of only five designated National Research Libraries (along with Oxford, Cambridge, LSE and SOAS) and we have an exceptionally generous library budget, allowing individual academic staff to order new library books for research and teaching purposes whenever they are required.

The School of Social Sciences is committed to research-led teaching. It has an extensive portfolio of undergraduate teaching programmes: single and joint honours programmes in its constituent disciplines; joint programmes with other Schools in the Faculty of Humanities; and large interdisciplinary programmes – the BA Economic and Social Studies and as well as the BA Social Sciences. We currently have just under 5000 UG students. At Masters Level there are currently over 900 students following our LLM, MA and MSc programmes. The student experience is supported by the provision of a range of student societies, careers provision, study abroad, our own Moot Court and by voluntary practical work in the [Legal Advice Centre](#) (LAC) and Justice Hub, a pro bono centre where students have the opportunity to assess and advise on problems presented by local clients. Teaching quality is high across the School's disciplines, and is recognised in promotions and by Faculty and University Teaching Awards.

The University and the City

The University's main campus is located only a short distance from the city centre and offers outstanding provision for research. The University of Manchester Library is one of only five National Research Libraries and, as such, it is one of the best-resourced academic libraries in the country. Manchester Central Library re-opened to great acclaim in March 2014 following a massive refurbishment which has not only preserved its historic features but has also transformed it to 21st century standards. The neo-gothic John Rylands Library on Deansgate, with its spectacular Reading Room, holds the University's Special Collections and hosts regular exhibitions and events.

The [city of Manchester](#) is one of the great European cities. Its architecture represents one of the high points of Victorian achievement. The modern city is a major centre of banking, commerce and manufacturing. It has a highly cosmopolitan atmosphere, and its cultural and sporting life are internationally renowned.

Manchester's cultural venues include the Bridgewater Hall, home of the Hallé orchestra; the Royal Exchange Theatre; the outstanding Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI); the arts complex HOME; Manchester Art Gallery; and the University's Whitworth Gallery, winner of the Art Fund's Museum of the Year in 2015. The Royal Northern College of Music, next door to the University on Oxford Road, hosts regular lunchtime and evening concerts, and the Manchester-based Camerata chamber orchestra plays at a variety of venues.

Salford Quays – a short tram ride from the city centre – boasts the Lowry Centre, which hosts exhibitions, concerts, and dance and theatre productions as well as a permanent Lowry exhibition, and MediaCityUK, the new base for an increasing amount of BBC production as well as Granada TV and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. Across the Manchester Ship Canal in Trafford is the Imperial War Museum North, designed by Daniel Libeskind.

Manchester hosts the biennial Manchester International Festival, which focusses on original new work. From 2019, the Festival is due to be housed at The Factory, a theatre and arts venue to be built on the old Granada Studios site whose name pays homage to Tony Wilson's world-famous Factory Records.

Manchester is also home to two Premier League football teams, the National Football Museum, the Old Trafford cricket ground, and the Manchester Velodrome, home to the National Cycling Centre. The University is a stakeholder in the Manchester Aquatics Centre on Oxford Road, which offers an on-campus, world-class 50m swimming pool as well as full gym facilities and fitness classes.

For food lovers, Manchester boasts many outstanding restaurants, catering to a very wide variety of culinary tastes and budgets. It is home to Europe's fastest-growing Chinatown and, a short walk south of the University, perhaps the best stretch of road in the entire country for Indian and Pakistani food.

Housing is varied and plentiful. Schooling ranges from world-famous private schools to excellent sixth-form colleges and comprehensives. Manchester is well-served by a major [international airport](#), with direct scheduled flights to many destinations in Europe as well as North America, Asia and direct flights to Beijing. Manchester Piccadilly railway station is served by inter-city and other train services, including direct services to Manchester Airport (15-20 minutes), London (just over 2 hours), Birmingham (90 minutes), Oxford, Glasgow and Edinburgh. Sheffield, Leeds and Liverpool are all less than an hour away by train. The expanding network of [Metrolink](#) tram service offers an alternative mode of public transport from an increasing number of areas of the conurbation (including services to Manchester Airport). Some of the most beautiful countryside in Europe is just over thirty minutes' drive from the University in the Peak District National Park, and the Yorkshire Dales are also easily accessible to the North. The Lake District and Snowdonia are also within easy reach.