Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellowships in Sociology (two posts)

Job description and selection criteria

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<th>College</th>
<th>NUFFIELD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Division</td>
<td>Social Sciences Division, University of Oxford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>The posts will be based at Nuffield College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salary</td>
<td>£32,150 per annum (salary for 2019/20; the salary to be adjusted with effect from August 2020 following the agreement of the 2020/21 pay award)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>Three years (fixed term)</td>
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<td>Working hours</td>
<td>Full time (35 hours per week)</td>
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Nuffield College intends to appoint, with effect from 1 September 2021 or as soon as possible thereafter, two Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellows (PPRFs) in Sociology, broadly construed to include sociology, demography, social and medical statistics, public policy, and social policy. Applicants who wish to undertake interdisciplinary research in Sociology which includes Economics and/or Politics are also welcome to apply for the Fellowships. The College particularly encourages applications from candidates who work or plan to work in the field of one or more of the College’s Sociology Fellows, whose interests are described in more detail below.

The postdoctoral fellowships are available for three years.

The aim of the competition is to identify and attract candidates who are reaching or have reached the end of their doctorate and have the potential to produce high quality research and to become world-class scholars in the social sciences.

The key responsibilities of the Research Fellows are to engage in independent scholarly research, and to take part in the intellectual life of the College. Research Fellows may also undertake *ad hoc* paid teaching or supervision within the collegiate University, up to a maximum of 48 hours per year. Decisions about the nature and direction of the research undertaken will be wholly under the control of the Research Fellow, but the College will appoint academic mentors to provide support and advice.

PPRFs will normally be expected to engage in activities aimed at integrating them in the College life and in the broader Oxford community. To that end, they will be encouraged to organise research events such as workshops, seminar series or conferences (for which the College can provide administrative and financial support). These activities can be agreed in consultation between them, Nuffield Mentors and the relevant College officers.
To be eligible, candidates should have completed, or be close to completing, a PhD/DPhil in a relevant field. Candidates must be within three years of the defence date (viva voce examination date) of their doctorate at the time of application. Allowances will be made for career breaks (for example, family-related leave) and candidates are asked to provide relevant information. Preference will be given to candidates who have not previously held a research fellowship similar to that advertised for more than one year at the time of taking up the fellowship.

The College particularly welcomes applications from women, from disabled people, and from black and minority ethnic candidates, who are currently under-represented in academic posts in Nuffield.

Any requests for further information about these posts or any queries should be addressed to the College Registrar at Nuffield by emailing pprf@nuffield.ox.ac.uk.

Main Responsibilities/Duties

Research

- To engage in advanced study and independent research in the field of sociology, broadly construed to include sociology, demography, social and medical statistics, public policy, and social policy.
- To disseminate research findings through the publication of peer-reviewed papers, and participation in conferences and seminars.

Teaching and other academic duties

For the College:

- To participate in the intellectual life of the College by attending, and where possible by organising, seminars, workshops, conferences, and other academic events.
- To act as mentors for graduate students, where appropriate.
- To represent the College's body of postdoctoral research fellows on one of the College's committees and to take on College officerships where appropriate.

For the Collegiate University:

- Optionally, and with the agreement of the Research Fellow's Mentor and the College, to undertake ad hoc paid teaching or supervision within the collegiate University, up to a maximum of 48 hours per year.

Selection criteria

Candidates will be judged on the basis of the following criteria and should ensure that their covering letter shows in their own words how they meet the criteria.

Essential:

- Having completed, or being close to completing, a PhD/DPhil in a relevant field. Candidates must be within three years of the defence date (viva voce examination date) of their doctorate at the time of application. Allowances will be made for career breaks (for example, family-related leave) and candidates are asked to provide relevant information. Preference will be given to candidates who have not previously held a research fellowship similar to that advertised for more than one year at the time of taking up the fellowship.
- Experience of carrying out independent research and a track record of excellent quality papers appropriate for and commensurate with their career level.
- Willingness to contribute to the intellectual life of the College.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.

Desirable

- Publications in peer-reviewed journals commensurate with the candidate’s career level.
- Research experience and/or research plans in the field of one or more of the College’s Sociology Fellows (described in more detail below).
- Experience of teaching high-achieving students.

Terms and Conditions of Employment

The Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellow's salary is set at £32,150 per annum (salary for 2019/20; the salary to be adjusted with effect from August 2020 following the agreement of the 2020/21 pay award). The salary is based on point 4 of the College’s scales for Research Fellows.

Any cost-of-living awards will be effective from 1 August each year.

Subject to availability, Research Fellows may opt to rent single accommodation in College. Fellows with children may apply for childcare places at one of the University’s nurseries. Demand for available places is high and places are not guaranteed. The University’s Childcare Services can give advice on other childcare providers in Oxford (www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare).

Each Research Fellow is entitled to an individual office in College, free lunch and dinner (when the kitchen is open), and two academic High Table dinner guests per term at the expense of the College. Research Fellows are allocated a research budget of up to £2,916 per annum (2020/21 rate), which may be used for expenses incurred in the course of academic duty, such as support of fieldwork, attendance at conferences and other research assistance. Telephone, fax, photocopying and postage expenditure incurred by a Fellow for academic purposes are met by the College. Each Research Fellow is allocated a computer and software suitable for their research.

The College functions as an academic community throughout the whole year, so that research and teaching activities are not confined to the University’s three terms. The College regards the holding of other positions (e.g. lecturerships at other Oxford colleges) as incompatible with the terms of the Fellowship. No office or appointment may be accepted, whether paid or unpaid, without the permission of Governing Body. Research Fellows are normally required to reside within 25 miles of Oxford and are also required to obtain permission of the College if they wish to take leave of absence.

Nuffield College is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

The Fellowships are full-time posts and are to be taken up on 1 September 2021 or as soon as possible thereafter. The appointment will be for three years. Successful applicants who do not currently have the right to work in the UK will be required to apply for permission to do so under the UK immigration system.

How to apply

To apply online for this vacancy, please click on the 'Apply' link below. This will take you to the Interfolio Web Recruitment System, where you will need to register for an account (if you have not done so previously) and log in before completing an online application.

For the online application you will be asked to complete an application form and a recruitment monitoring form, and to upload the following documents:

- A covering letter explaining how you meet the selection criteria for the Fellowship.
• A Curriculum Vitae including a full list of publications/working papers.

• A one-page description of your current research.

• A one-page description of the research you would plan to undertake as a Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellow; and

• Two samples of your written work (for example, research papers or thesis chapters), together with a one-page abstract for each piece.

On the application form you will be asked to provide the names, postal addresses, and email addresses of at least two academic referees to whom we may write at a later stage in the selection process to request references in support of your application. Please ensure that your nominated referees would be available to provide references in October 2020.

APPLY

If you have any technical difficulties submitting your online application, please contact Interfolio at help@interfolio.com. For other queries, please contact the Nuffield College Registrar at pprf@nuffield.ox.ac.uk.

If, for your convenience, you wish to submit a hard-copy application, please contact the Nuffield College Registrar at pprf@nuffield.ox.ac.uk. Interfolio is a US-based service which processes data on servers based outside the EEA. The Interfolio privacy policy can be viewed here: www.interfolio.com/privacy-policy/. Information submitted via hard-copy is not processed through Interfolio.

The deadline for receipt of applications is Monday 28 September 2020.

Interviews are likely to take place in the week beginning Monday 23 November 2020. A short-list of candidates will be invited to give a short seminar presentation and to be interviewed. Interviews may take place via videoconference, or short-listed candidates may be invited to visit Nuffield College. In the event in-person interviews are held, the College will pay all reasonable expenses (including economy air fares) of candidates invited for interview.

Enquiries: e-mail pprf@nuffield.ox.ac.uk; tel. +44 1865 278 516.
Further Information

Nuffield College is a graduate college within the University of Oxford which was founded in 1937 and specialises in the Social Sciences, particularly Economics, Politics, and Sociology. It aims to be one of the world’s outstanding social science institutions, providing a stimulating research-orientated environment for postgraduate students, research fellows, and senior academics and promoting, according to its Charter, “the study by co-operation between academic and non-academic persons of social (including economic and political) problems”. About 30 students are admitted each year to undertake both taught masters courses and doctoral research for many of whom the College provides financial support in the form of studentships. In total there are about 100 students enrolled at any one time, many of whom either live in College or have offices in College.

Postdoctoral Fellows are an integral part of the College and its academic activity. In 2020-21 there are 49 Research Fellows in College of whom 14 are College-funded Prize Postdoctoral Fellows, 7 are funded jointly with the Economics Department, 5 are funded by Research Centres based in College, and the remainder are funded by external awards or by the Departments of Economics, Politics and International Relations, Sociology, Social Policy and Intervention, and the Blavatnik School of Government.

The College has in addition 38 permanent academic Fellows (of whom 6 are College-funded Official Fellows), 28 non-academic Visiting Fellows drawn from the world of business, industry, politics and administration; and a number of Research Officers working on research projects run by the College’s Fellows. The College enjoys strong links with the University’s social science departments and works closely with the Social Sciences Division.

Nuffield College has been – and continues to be – the source of some of the major research developments in social science. These include the British Election Studies and the major programme of research on Social Mobility in Britain. It was the birthplace of the "Oxford School" of Industrial Relations; it pioneered the development of cost benefit analysis for developing countries; and it has made a major contribution to the methodology of econometrics. At the moment the College hosts five research centres: the Centre for Experimental Social Sciences (CESS); the Centre for Social Investigation (CSI); the Nuffield Politics Research Centre; the Nuffield Centre for Applied Macro Policy (NuCAMP); and the Climate Econometrics project (see further information below).

Research Facilities

The size and specialised nature of the College enable its members to work closely with one another in a stimulating and research-orientated environment. A ‘critical mass’ of students and Fellows working in the social sciences is helpful both in terms of facilities and of intellectual activity, such as the active seminar and conference programme.

The College Library is one of the finest in the social sciences and functions as a research library, reflecting the academic interests of the Fellows. The Library is open shelf and accessible 24 hours a day. Fellows also have access to all the facilities of the Bodleian Library, including full-text access to nearly all journals in the social sciences.

The College has an Information Systems Department to serve the computing needs of Fellows.

The College provides facilities and grants for Fellows to invite academic visitors to the College to enable them to carry out collaborative work.

Research Centres in Nuffield College

The College currently hosts five research centres, focusing on different aspects of and approaches to the study of social sciences:

The Centre for Experimental Social Sciences (CESS) was established to promote and facilitate experimental research by social scientists in Oxford. The CESS offers an on-site laboratory with 25
computer stations, and maintains a large subject pool. The facilities are designed to support a wide range of experiments. The CESS also maintains an online panel of UK residents, and provides support for fielding online survey experiments. Fellows are eligible to conduct lab and online experiments at a discounted rate subsidised by the College and the Social Science Division. The CESS has a regular seminar series that highlights the work of renowned scholars employing experimental methods. Periodic workshops held by the CESS provide training for researchers in experimental research design, experimental data analysis, and programming languages (including z-Tree and Qualtrics). More information on CESS is available at https://cess-web.nuff.ox.ac.uk/.

The Centre for Social Investigation (CSI) is an interdisciplinary research programme; in keeping with the College’s Charter which emphasizes “the study by co-operation between academic and non-academic persons of social (including economic and political) problems”, the Centre aims to address contemporary social issues of public interest and to engage with policy-makers and the public more generally, carrying out authoritative, non-partisan research on central social issues which draws upon expertise in economics, politics and sociology and related disciplines such as social policy. The Centre seeks to establish itself as an independent and rigorous source of information and analysis of contemporary social issues, communicated in an accessible way to nontechnical audiences, in addition to publishing technical work for academic audiences. Professor Anthony Heath was the inaugural Director for the CSI and Professor David Kirk has recently taken up the Centre’s Directorship, assisted by post-doctoral researchers. The Centre also hopes to attract a body of non-stipendiary associates to participate in its activities, and, once the Centre is fully established, to offer secondments from government or business. More information on CSI is available at http://csi.nuff.ox.ac.uk/.

The Nuffield Politics Research Centre (formerly known as the Gwilym Gibbon Centre for Public Policy Research) has been established with the aim of bridging academia and public affairs through the provision of rigorous academic analysis of public policy issues (mainly in the UK). The Centre’s Director, Professor Jane Green, carries out research assessing the relationship between policy and performance and political attitudes and vote choice research, and is a Co-Director of the British Election Study – the longest running social survey in the UK. She takes an active role in the analysis of British politics and elections and serves as ITV News Election Analyst, as well as regularly commenting in a range of national media. The Centre’s inaugural director was Professor Iain McLean who undertakes research in response to calls for evidence from parliamentary bodies and government or as part of externally funded research projects.

The Nuffield Centre for Applied Macro Policy (NuCAMP) was established with the aim of creating a space in which academics and policymakers can freely and openly discuss current trends, insights and policies that influence how economies function. Through its convening power and activities focussed on holding conferences, workshops and visitor programmes, NuCamp fosters the development of fresh analytical and empirical approaches that promise to create better links and improved knowledge exchange between the academic and policy worlds of macroeconomic problems.

The Climate Econometrics project and network, under the leadership of Professor Sir David Hendry, is based at Nuffield College, in collaboration with the Department of Economics at the University of Victoria, and the Environmental Defense Fund. The research is funded by the Robertson Foundation. The project and network concentrate on developing econometric methods to augment climate-economic research by helping disentangle complex relationships between human actions and climate responses and their associated economic effects, masked by stochastic trends and breaks. The project team aims to improve our understanding of the impact of humanity on climate and vice versa, as well as on how econometrics can be used in climate-economic research, and bring together researchers in the field of Climate Econometrics through an international network. More information on the Climate Econometrics project is available at http://www.climateeconometrics.org/

The Nuffield Sociology Group

The current permanent members of the Nuffield Sociology Group, and their respective research areas, are:
Richard Breen (FBA) Social stratification and inequality, quantitative methods, and the application of formal models in the social science.

Erzsébet Bukodi Educational inequalities, trends in intergenerational and intragenerational mobility, different aspects of life-course analysis, labour market careers and linking macro-processes to individual outcomes.

Lucie Cluver Child and family social work and evidence-based intervention with emphasis on sub-Saharan Africa.

Nan Dirk de Graaf Empirical sociology. Religion, social stratification, crime, political sociology, and political and cultural consequences of social mobility and mixed marriages.

Geoff Evans (FBA), who works on electoral behaviour and comparative political sociology, is a Nuffield Fellow in both the Sociology and Politics Groups.

Ray Fitzpatrick (FMedSci) Medical sociology. Interests include the evaluation of health care, the measurement of patient satisfaction, health status and quality of life.

Jan O. Jonsson Social stratification, including studies of educational inequality, the class structure, and social mobility.

Ridhi Kashyap Demography, gender, the relationship between development and demographic change, computational social science including agent-based models and using online data, ethnicity and migration.

David Kirk The legitimacy of the law and the effects of illegitimacy on crime and the willingness of residents to cooperate with the police; the effect of neighborhood culture and conditions on criminal and delinquent behavior; and prisoner reentry and the consequences of housing and parole policies for offender reintegration. (Director of the Centre for Social Investigation at Nuffield College).

Colin Mills Sociology of economic life; social stratification; social demography; social survey research; quantitative research methods.

Melinda Mills (FBA) Life course research, sociogenomics, fertility, partnerships, work-family reconciliation, work schedules, and biodemography. (Director of the Levehulme Centre for Demographic Science).

Christiaan Monden Family sociology/demography, focusing on the link between health and family and how health and well-being are related to socio-demographic transitions in the life course and how the family affects individuals' health outcomes.

In 2020-21 there will be six Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellows in the Sociology Group:

Christopher Barrie (D.Phil. Oxford) Political sociology; contentious politics; conflict; Middle East politics.


Nicholas Martindale (D.Phil. Oxford) How privatization and outsourcing are reorganizing the world of work and how these processes affect the possibilities for workers and employers to mobilize collectively to achieve their goals.

Tobias Rüttenauer (Ph.D. TU Kaiserslautern) Environmental and urban sociology, and quantitative empirical methods, especially the analysis of spatial and panel data.

Fangqi Wen (Ph.D. NYU) Social stratification and mobility; social demography; sociology of education; gender; quantitative methods and causal inference.

Dirk Witteveen (Ph.D. CUNY Graduate Center) Social stratification, particularly in the educational system and the labor market.

There are a number of other research fellows in sociology. Federico Varese (D.Phil. Oxford) is a Professor of Criminology in the Department of Sociology and a Senior Research Fellow of the College, with research interests in organised crime; the application of social network analysis to the
study of criminal groups; migration and mafias; and theories of action. John Ermisch (Ph.D. Kansas) is Emeritus Professor of Family Demography in the Department of Sociology and a Senior Research Fellow in Nuffield, and his research is concerned with the structure and dynamics of families and their interaction with wider society. Brian Nolan (Ph.D. LSE), is a Senior Research Fellow of the College, and Professor of Social Policy in the Oxford Department of Social Policy & Intervention, as well as the Director of the Employment, Equity and Growth Programme at INET Oxford, with research interests on income inequality, poverty, and the economics of social policy.

The following post-doctoral researchers hold non-stipendiary research fellowships (NSRFs) at Nuffield:

Patrick Pråg (Ph.D. Groningen), Postdoctoral Fellow in Life Course Research in the Department of Sociology.

Marii Paskov (Ph.D. Amsterdam), British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Social Policy and Intervention, working on economic growth models, inequality, and living standards.

Cohen Simpson (Ph.D. LSE), British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Oxford Internet Institute, working on the quantitative study of human social networks, focusing in particular on the determinants of network formation.

Charles Rahal (Ph.D. Birmingham), British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Sociology, working on a project entitled “The Social Data Science of Healthcare Supply”.

Jonathan Lusthaus (D.Phil. Oxford), Commonwealth Bank Fellow working on a project on profit-driven cybercrime in the Extra-Legal Governance Institute in the Department of Sociology.

Lewis Anderson (D.Phil. Oxford), Postdoctoral Researcher on the EU-funded CRITEVENTS project in the Department of Sociology, working on social mobility, family sociology, health and well-being.

Zachary Van Winkle (Ph.D. Humboldt Berlin), Postdoctoral Researcher in Sociology and Social Demography on the FAMSIZEMATTERS project in the Department of Sociology, researching how low fertility affects the (re)production of social inequalities.

David Brazel (Ph.D. CU Boulder), Postdoctoral Researcher on the Sociogenome project in the Department of Sociology, with research interests in sociogenomics and digital phenotyping methods.

Marti Rovira (Ph.D. Pompeu Fabra), British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Sociology, with research interests in criminology, quantitative methods, collateral consequences of convictions, and stigma.

Xuejie Ding (D.Phil. Oxford), Postdoctoral Researcher in Sociogenomics in the Department of Sociology, researching the adoption of a sociogenomic approach to bridge the knowledge of contextual, social and biological influences on health.

Helen Kowalewska (Ph.D. Southampton), Postdoctoral Research Officer in the Department of Social Policy & Intervention, researching on the relationship between welfare states and women’s employment outcomes using quantitative and qualitative methods.

Valentina Rotondi (Ph.D. UCSC Milan) Postdoctoral Researcher at the Leverhulme Centre for Demographic Science in the Department of Sociology, with a research focus on development, and the interactions between population, development, and technological change

Deni Mazrekaj (Ph.D. KU Leuven) Postdoctoral Researcher in Sociology and Social Demography on the ERC-funded FAMSIZEMATTERS project in the Department of Sociology, researching on returns to schooling and the role of family environment in the development of the children's adult outcomes.

José Manuel Aburto (Ph.D. Southern Denmark) Newton International Fellow at the Leverhulme Centre for Demographic Science in the Oxford Department of Sociology, with research interests in population health, mathematical demography, health inequalities, and ageing.
Per Engzell (Ph.D. Stockholm) Postdoctoral Researcher at the Leverhulme Centre for Demographic Science in the Department of Sociology, researching intergenerational socioeconomic mobility and its variation across place and time.

In addition, the College Members of the Sociology Group are involved with a number of large-scale funded research projects. Nuffield Sociology Fellow Melinda Mills is the Director of the Leverhulme Centre for Demographic Science in the Department of Sociology, a nucleus of demography which seeks to harvest and link classic and new types of data, alongside innovative approaches and methods to generate accurate, timely and effective demographic knowledge and predictions to resolve the most challenging demographic problems of our time. Other current projects include the ERC-funded SOCIGENOME project, a comprehensive study of the role of genes and gene-environment (GxE) interaction on reproductive behaviour; the comparative project Children of Immigrants Longitudinal Survey in Four European Countries (CILS4EU) investigating the integration of ethnic minority school children; the ERC-funded FAMSIZEMATTERS project that investigates the link between family size and reproduction of social inequalities; the Norface-ERA-NET-funded CRTEVENTS project that investigates how the risks of and vulnerability to critical life events are socially patterned; and the Global Family Change project exploring the complex ways in which families are changing across low and middle-income countries. Nuffield’s Sociology Fellows are closely involved in research and teaching within the Oxford Department of Sociology and Department of Social Policy and Intervention and their research centres. A Nuffield sociologist currently serves as editor of Population Studies.

About the University of Oxford

Oxford’s departments and colleges aim to lead the world in research and education for the benefit of society both in the UK and globally. Oxford’s researchers engage with academic, commercial and cultural partners across the world to stimulate high-quality research and enable innovation through a broad range of social, policy and economic impacts.

Oxford’s self-governing community of international scholars includes Professors, Associate Professors, other college tutors, senior and junior research fellows and over 2,500 other University research staff. Research at Oxford combines disciplinary depth with an increasing focus on interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary activities addressing a rich and diverse range of issues. The current strategic plan can be found at http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/strategic-plan-2018-23.

Oxford’s strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, and in providing all staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that supports everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is a great strength, and vital for innovation and creativity, Oxford aspires to build a truly inclusive community which values and respects every individual’s unique contribution.

While Oxford has long traditions of scholarship, it is also forward-looking, creative and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe’s most entrepreneurial universities. It consistently has the highest external research income of any university in the UK (the most recent figures are available at http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding), and is ranked first in the UK for university spin-outs, with more than 130 spin-off companies created to date. Oxford is also recognised as a leading supporter of social enterprise.

Oxford admits undergraduate students with the intellectual potential to benefit fully from the small group learning to which Oxford is deeply committed. Meeting in small groups with their tutor, undergraduates are exposed to rigorous scholarly challenge and learn to develop their critical thinking, their ability to articulate their views with clarity, and their personal and intellectual confidence. They receive a high level of personal attention from leading academics.

Oxford has a strong postgraduate student body which now numbers over 10,000. Postgraduates are attracted to Oxford by the international standing of the faculty, by the rigorous intellectual training on offer, by the excellent research and laboratory facilities available, and by the resources of the museums and libraries, including one of the world’s greatest libraries, the Bodleian.

For more information please visit www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation.
The Social Sciences Division

Oxford is a world-leading centre for research across the disciplines of the social sciences. Characterised by a wide range of methodologies, themes and fields of scholarship, multi-disciplinary research and innovative ideas thrive in an environment underpinned by excellence across the disciplines of the social sciences.

Our approach to supporting research across the Social Sciences Division has been highly successful in the last ten years, with the volume of research awards continuing to rise and the development of a large number of research centres and groupings. Researchers at Oxford receive significant support and guidance in the development of their research, including career development, research and impact funding, research project design and management, and research outputs from academic and administrative colleagues across the University, division and departments.

For more information please visit: www.socsci.ox.ac.uk.

Nuffield College exists to promote excellence in education and research, and is an equal opportunities employer committed to equality and valuing diversity. Applications are particularly welcome from women, from disabled people, and from black and minority ethnic candidates, who are currently under-represented in posts in the College.

Nothing in these particulars constitutes a contract.