

Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellowships in Sociology (two posts)

Job description and selection criteria

College	NUFFIELD
Division	Social Sciences Division, University of Oxford
Location	The posts will be based at Nuffield College
Salary	£30,963 per annum (salary for 2017/18; the salary will be adjusted with effect from August 2018 following the agreement of the 2018/19 pay award)
Duration	Three years (fixed term)
Working hours	Full time (35 hours per week)

Nuffield College intends to appoint, with effect from 1 September 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter, two Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellows (PPRFs) in Sociology, broadly construed to include sociology, demography, social and medical statistics, social psychology, 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 and the Department can provide administrative and financial support). These activities can be agreed in consultation between them, Nuffield Mentors and the relevant College and Department 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, social psychology, public policy, and social policy.
- To disseminate research findings through the publication of peer-reviewed papers, 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. 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 £30,963 per annum (salary for 2017/18; the salary will be adjusted with effect from August 2018 following the agreement of the 2018/19 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 £2,819 per annum (2018-19 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. lectureships 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 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 2019 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 points-based 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 2018.

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, and complies with the EU-U.S. Privacy Shield Framework (see www.interfolio.com/privacy-policy/). Information submitted via hard-copy is not processed through Interfolio.

The deadline for receipt of applications is Monday 24 September 2018.

A short-list of candidates for the PPRFs in Sociology will be invited to visit the College in the week beginning Monday 19 November 2018 (exact date to be confirmed) to give a short seminar presentation and to be interviewed. 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; or fax +44 1865 278 530

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 2017-18 there are 44 Research Fellows in College of whom 10 are College-funded Prize Postdoctoral Fellows, 11 are funded jointly with the Economics Department, and the remainder are funded by external awards or by the Departments of Economics, Politics and International Relations; Sociology; and Social Policy and Intervention.

The College has in addition 34 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 four research centres: the Centre for Experimental Social Sciences (CESS); the Centre for Social Investigation (CSI); and the Gwilym Gibbon Centre for Public Policy Research, and the Nuffield Centre for Applied Macro Policy (NuCAMP) (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 four 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

supports 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 ztree 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 serves as Director for the CSI, 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 **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 inaugural director has been 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. One of the Centre's research projects focused on resource allocation in policing in Great Britain and was funded by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. From September 2018, Professor Jane Green will be joining the College and will take over the directorship of the Gwilym Gibbon Centre.

The **Nuffield Centre for Applied Macro Policy (NuCAMP)** was established in the Summer of 2017 to create 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 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.

[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](#), 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.

[Colin Mills](#) Sociology of economic life; social stratification; social demography; social survey research; quantitative research methods.

[Melinda Mills](#) (FBA) Life course research; linking data and data transformations; cross-country comparative studies; globalization; partnerships (cohabitation, marriage, divorce, widowhood); labor market transitions and recent trends in flexibility; the link of sociological theory with empirical research; demography; multistate and event history methods; mixed methods (qualitative and quantitative).

[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 2018-19 there will be four **Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellows** in the Sociology Group:

(from September 2018) [Bastian Betthaeuser](#) (D.Phil. Oxford) Education and labour market policy and its implications for social inequality from a life-course and intergenerational perspective.

[Per Engzell](#) (Ph.D. Stockholm) Intergenerational Status Transmission, Peer Effects, Sociogenomics

[Lucie Kalousova](#) (Ph.D. Michigan, Ann Arbor) Inequality in health and debt: A comparative study of the health effects of indebtedness in Europe and in the US

(from September 2018) [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. Three Research Fellows are employed as Postdoctoral Researchers in the [Nuffield Centre for Social Investigation](#): they are [Lindsay Richards](#) (Ph.D. Manchester) whose research focuses upon the social and economic causes of subjective well-being; [Elisabeth Garratt](#) (Ph.D. Manchester) who has research interests in quantitative methods, mental health in adults and children, health inequalities, poverty, food insecurity and social stratification; and [Noah Carl](#) (D.Phil. Oxford) working on an ESRC-funded project on attitude formation and change in the run-up to Brexit. [Jay Gershuny](#) (Ph.D. Sussex) is Professor of Economic Sociology and Director of the Oxford Centre for Time Use Research, and a Nuffield Senior Research Fellow, with research interests including the design and use of narrative datasets, household organisation, labour force participation, family formation and dissolution, and accounts of socio-economic structure social change. [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 a 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), another Senior Research Fellow of the College, is Professor of Social Policy in the Oxford Department of Social Policy & Intervention, and Director of the Employment, Equity and Growth Programme at INET Oxford, researching on income inequality, poverty, and the economics of social policy. [Patrick Präg](#) (Ph.D. Groningen), another Nuffield NSRF, is a Postdoctoral Fellow in Life Course Research in the Department of Sociology. [Marii Paskov](#) (Ph.D. Amsterdam) holds a Nuffield NSRF in association with her British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellowship held in the Department of Social Policy and Intervention, working on economic growth models, inequality, and living standards. [Felix Tropf](#) (Ph.D. Groningen) is a Nuffield NSRF and a postdoctoral researcher in sociogenomics in the Department of Sociology, currently working on social science genetics and the life-course. [Laura](#)

[Langner](#) (D.Phil. Oxford) holds a Nuffield NSRF and an ESRC Future Leader award in the Department of Sociology, and works on life course and family dynamics. [Cohen Simpson](#) (Ph.D. LSE) is a Nuffield NSRF in conjunction with his British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellowship held in 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) is a Nuffield NSRF and holds a British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in the Department of Sociology, working on a project entitled “The Social Data Science of Healthcare Supply”. [Alexi Gugushvili](#) (Ph.D. EUI) holds a Nuffield NSRF in association with his appointment as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Social Policy and Intervention, and works on intergenerational social mobility using both comparative cross-national data sets and national longitudinal surveys. [Jonathan Lusthaus](#) (D.Phil. Oxford) is a Nuffield NSRF and a CBA Fellow working on a project on profit-driven cybercrime in the Extra-Legal Governance Institute in the Department of Sociology.

In addition, the College Members of the Sociology Group are involved with a number of large-scale funded research projects, including the ERC-funded [SOCIOGENOME](#) 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 Nofrace-ERA-NET-funded CRITEVENTS project that investigates how the risks of and vulnerability to critical life events are socially patterned and the EU 7th Framework programme “[FamiliesAndSocieties](#)”. 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 inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary activities addressing a rich and diverse range of issues. The current strategic plan can be found at www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/strategic-plan.

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 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

The University's academic departments and faculties are organised into four large groups, known as Academic Divisions (Social Sciences, Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences (MPLS), Medical Sciences, and Humanities). The academic divisions are responsible for academic oversight of the teaching and research of their constituent departments and faculties, for strategic and operational planning, and for personnel and resource management. The Head of the Social Sciences Division is Professor Sarah Whatmore, who is a member of the University's Council. The Social Sciences Division is a world-leading centre of research and education in the social sciences. The social sciences at Oxford are distinctive for both their depth and breadth, with activity spanning fourteen departments and faculties and one cross-divisional unit. (These are as follows: Law, the Saïd Business School, Economics, Politics and International Relations, the Blavatnik School of Government, the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, International Development, Sociology, Social Policy and Intervention, the Oxford Internet Institute, Archaeology, the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies, Education, the School of Geography and the Environment, and the Oxford Martin School). Interdisciplinary links within and beyond the university are strong, extending to the humanities, natural sciences, and medical sciences.

Academic and research staff and research students are engaged in world-leading research that challenges current ideas and theories and is tackling some of the major challenges facing humanity, such as sustainable resource management, migration, governance, poverty and development, and justice. The 2014 Research Excellence Framework confirmed Oxford as the UK powerhouse for research in the social sciences, where Oxford accounted for more world-leading (4*) research than any other institution, across the social sciences units of assessment to which it made submissions. The division has an extensive portfolio of external funders and collaborators, with competitively-awarded external research income exceeding £40 million per year. Researchers in the division engage actively beyond academia and their research has influence in many spheres from innovation in public policymaking to practitioner communities such as law, business, education, social welfare and NGOs.

The division also delivers an exceptional range of high quality educational programmes (undergraduate, postgraduate taught and postgraduate research), all of which are underpinned by the innovative research being undertaken by our academics. Programmes range from those at the interface of the natural sciences, through to professionally-oriented provision in areas such as business, law and education. The division is home to several of Oxford's most widely recognised teaching programmes, such as Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE); the Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL); the MPhils in International Relations, in Economics, and in Development Studies; the MBA and EMBA; and the nationally regarded Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE).

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

Nothing in these particulars constitutes a contract.