

PhD Studentship: Situating Everyday First Aid: Social Practices and Settings of Incidents and Help

Deadline: **9th February 2018**

PhD CASE Studentship, Sociology Department, Lancaster University: [Everyday First Aid: Social Practices and Settings of Incidents and Help](#).

This is a call for applications for a three year, fully funded, ESRC [North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership](#) (NWSSDTP) CASE PhD studentship working in collaboration with the British Red Cross and beginning in October 2018.

The project investigates the social organisation of first aid. The research will focus on the social and institutional settings within which first aid 'incidents' occur and how these settings influence the kinds of 'responses' and forms of help that follow.

The aim is to provide a better understanding of accidents, risks, and harms by positioning first aid incidents not as random events but as embedded in the spatial and temporal ordering of social practices and social life. Further understanding of the social organisation of help will put the Red Cross and others in a better position to promote first aid skills, to help save more lives, and reduce harm.

Supervisors:

[Dr Stanley Blue](#), [Professor Elizabeth Shove](#) (Department of Sociology, Lancaster University), and Penny Newell (Education Research, British Red Cross).

Project Description:

The successful candidate will develop a novel sociological approach to the study of first aid incidents and responses. The research will draw on theoretical resources from social theories of practice (e.g. Shove et al., 2012) and emerging empirical work in public health (Blue et al., 2016) and will bring fresh perspectives to bear on the field of first aid education and research.

Through a detailed investigation of first aid provision, capability, and experience, across a variety of locations, the project will address the following research questions:

- How is everyday first aid practice organised and ordered as part of social life?
- How do first aid incidents and responses relate to the spatial and temporal organisation of social practice?
- How do the different social settings within which first aid incidents occur matter for how they are dealt with and handled?

This NWSSDTP CASE Studentship includes:

- Payment of academic fees (at the standard RCUK rate);
- A Maintenance Stipend (£14,553 in 2017, exact rate for 2018 subject to confirmation from the RCUK);
- Access to a Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) for reimbursement of research-related expenses including – but not limited to – conference attendance, training courses and UK fieldwork;

- Opportunities to apply for additional funding towards Overseas Institutional Visits and Internships;
- Three periods of placement at British Red Cross Offices (flexible locations, including 44 Moorfields, London) to support key stages of the research (and year-round desk space);
- Access to Training and Professional Development delivered by the Red Cross;
- Some financial support for conference and research event registration fees provided by the Red Cross;
- Some financial support from the Red Cross to help disseminate the research;
- Access to a range of training and development provided by the Sociology Department, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Lancaster University, and the NWSSDTC.

Person Specification:

- Candidates must have qualifications of the standard of Bachelor's degree at first or upper second class level, and must also have a suitable Master's degree or equivalent (or will have completed a Master's degree by the starting date October 2018) in social research/social science.
- Candidates will need to demonstrate that they have received rigorous training in the theoretical, philosophical, and methodological aspects of both qualitative and quantitative research.
- Candidates must satisfy the [ESRC's academic and residential eligibility requirements](#);
- Candidates will preferably have a background and academic interest in social theory and public health. Knowledge of relevant academic debates will be of significant advantage.

Application Information:

Please send enquiries about the vacancy and applications by email to Dr Stanley Blue (s.blue@lancaster.ac.uk).

Applications should include:

- A full CV, including two named referees (one of whom should be your most recent academic tutor/supervisor);
- A copy of Bachelor's degree and Master's degree transcript (or copy of equivalent qualifications);
- A letter of application (not exceeding three pages of A4, double line spaced) outlining your suitability and how you would approach the research (see [further project details](#));
- An example of postgraduate level written work (e.g. a research article, chapter, or essay).

Deadline for applications is **9th February 2018**.

We will inform candidates whether we will offer them an interview on the **12th February 2018**.

Interviews will take place in Lancaster, week commencing **14^h February 2018**.

Candidates invited for an interview will be eligible to claim reasonable UK travel expenses to attend.

The successful applicant will be required to submit a full application to study for a PhD in the Department of Sociology at Lancaster University and will need to be offered a place on the programme.