



Information on Postgraduate Research Scholarship - Ref: HUS 04 20

Faculty: Education, Health and Human Sciences

Department: Human Sciences

Lead Supervisor: Dr. Michèle Birtel

Project Title: The Impact of Existing and New Hate Crime Laws on Juror Decision Making: Ensuring Equality of Outcomes

Project Description:

Hate crimes (i.e. prejudicially motivated acts of hostility) are an extreme manifestation of societal prejudice. The police reported rates have risen in England/Wales by 111.8% since 2011 and escalated following the EU referendum and Manchester bombing. Hate crime victims suffer more psychological harm than other crime victims. The entire stigmatised group can be negatively affected by reports of individual attacks. The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) stipulates that offences motivated by hostility towards five protected characteristics should result in an enhanced sentence (race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, transgender). However, race and religious hate crimes constitute separate offences for which a remedy is available, for the other characteristics equally severe punishments are less common as hostility needs evidencing, indicating unequal protections by the criminal justice system.

The project capitalises on fortuitous political and legal changes and should assist in driving legal equity. The Law Commission will publish their current review of hate crime legislation in 2020 and likely recommend extending protections to additional stigmatised groups (i.e. older adults, facially deformed) to ensure greater equality. Research evaluating public attitudes towards potential new-characteristic hate crime perpetrators and victims is lacking, as is research evaluating parity of legal protections associated with current characteristics. The public must support sanctions against perpetrators, being the final 'triers of fact' when serving on a jury. Many, however, are resistant to hate crime labelling (labelling assaults as hate crimes can reduce beliefs in defendant guilt).

Participants, recruited via a very large pool of jury-eligible research volunteers, will complete online questionnaires on Qualtrics. Data will be analysed using Logistic and Loglinear Regression, Analysis of Variance, and Structural Equation Modelling.

The successful applicant has flexibility in choosing to focus on one or more protected hate crime characteristics, based on their literature review and/or proposed legal changes.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity and the PhD project before applying, please contact Dr. Michèle Birtel (Associate Professor of Social Psychology) M.Birtel@greenwich.ac.uk and Prof. Josh Davis (Professor of Applied Psychology) J.P.Davis@greenwich.ac.uk.

Duration: 3 years Full-Time Study or 6 years Part-Time Study.

Funded: Self-Funded

Person Specification of Essential (E) or Desirable (D) requirements:	
Criteria:	E or D
Education and Training:	
• 1 st Class or 2 nd class, First Division (Upper Second Class) Honours Degree or a taught Master's degree with a minimum average of 60% in all areas of assessment (UK or UK equivalent) in a relevant area to the proposed research project (e.g. social/forensic psychology)	E
• For those whose first language is not English and/or if from a country where English is not the majority spoken language (as recognised by the UKBA), a language proficiency score of at least IELTS 6.5 (in all elements of the test) or an equivalent UK VISA and Immigration secure English Language Test is required, unless the degree above was taught in English and obtained in a majority English speaking country, e.g. UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand, etc, as recognised by the UKBA.	E
Experience & Skills:	
• Previous experience of undertaking research in Psychology (e.g. undergraduate or taught masters dissertation)	E
• Excellent writing skills	E
• Substantial knowledge in relevant area of psychology	
• Familiarity with advanced quantitative research methods	
• Experience of relevant software to support research (e.g. SPSS, GPower)	E
Personal Attributes:	
• Understands the fundamental differences between a taught degree and a research degree in terms of approach and personal discipline/motivation	E
• Able to, under guidance, complete independent work successfully	E
Other Requirements:	
• A PhD project research proposal that is related to the research area	E
Closing date for applications: applications are accepted all year round	
For further information contact: Dr. Michèle Birtel or Prof. Josh Davis	
E-mail: M.Birtel@greenwich.ac.uk and J.P.Davis@greenwich.ac.uk	

Making an application:

Please read this information before making an application. Information on the application process is available at: <https://www.gre.ac.uk/research/study/apply/application-process>. Applications need to be made online via this link. **No other form of application will be considered.**

All applications **must include** the following information. Applications not containing these documents will not be considered.

- Reference Number (Ref)
- Personal statement outlining the motivation for a PhD and this particular project
- Indication of previous research experience (e.g. dissertation, research assistant)
- 2-pages research proposal (about 1500 words) related to the subject topic *
- Complete tabular CV

- 2 reference letters (one ideally being from a dissertation supervisor)*
- Academic qualification certificates/transcripts and IELTS/English Language certificate if you are an international applicant or if English is not your first language or you are from a country where English is not the majority spoken language as defined by the UK Border Agency *

**upload to the qualification section of the application form. Attachments must be a PDF format.*

Before submitting your application you are encouraged to liaise with the Lead Supervisor on the details above.