



Information on Postgraduate Research Project - Ref: HUS 05 20

Faculty: Education, Health and Human Sciences

Department: Human Sciences

Lead Supervisor: Dr Rebecca Smith

Project Title: Exploring the effect of promoting equality norms on rape myth acceptance and reduction in UK adolescents

Project Description:

According to crime statistics England and Wales (2017), 20% of women and 4% of men between the ages of 16-59 are survivors of rape. Age groups at particular risk are those between 16 and 19 years old, and female full-time students have been found to be a high-risk group (Universities UK, 2016).

Misconceptions of rape or 'rape myths' worsen the problem as they blame the victim, play down the seriousness of rape and excuse the perpetrators. Ultimately, rape and rape myths are about sexual oppression and dominance (Burt 1980). There is considerable evidence that rape myths are supported by sexist attitudes and more recently it has been found that social dominance orientation (SDO), a measure of the extent to which a person sees group hierarchies as desirable, also predicts rape myth acceptance (RMA), (Hockett, Saucier, Hoffman, Smith & Craig, 2009).

Social dominance theory (Pratto, Sidanius, Stallworth & Malle, 1994) is a useful framework for understanding rape myths as a form of gender oppression as it allows us to determine whether an ideology legitimises the dominance of some groups over others, or whether they legitimise equality; RMA and sexism are examples of dominance ideologies, and the promotion of equality runs counter to this. As such we would expect the promotion of equality to reduce RMA, via a reduction in social dominance orientation (SDO) and sexism and potentially increase the effectiveness of interventions designed to reduce RMA, such as consent training or the bystander intervention approach. In contrast to past research which looks almost exclusively at students at University we propose that this research should be conducted on children towards the end of their secondary school education.

This project will mainly use quantitative methods however applicants with proposals of mixed methods approach will also be viewed favourably. At least some of the proposed studies should have an experimental design to allow inferences of cause and effect.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity and the PhD project before applying, please contact Dr Rebecca Smith (Senior Lecturer of Psychology) R.T.Smith@greenwich.ac.uk

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

Funding: 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 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 7 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 or Sociology or Education (e.g. undergraduate or taught masters dissertation)	E
• Good knowledge of quantitative methods and statistical analysis	E
• Good writing skills	E
• Good quantitative	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 Rebecca Smith	
E-mail: R.T.Smith@greenwich.ac.uk	

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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
- Research proposal related to the subject topic of max. 15,000 word *
- CV including 2 referees * (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.