

Sustainable Care: connecting people and systems

ESRC Large Grant programme and International Partnership, 2017-2021

Five exceptional PhD study opportunities: PhD No. 5

Study topic: *The role of new technologies in mediating long distant aged-care relationships between UK-based migrants and their overseas family members*

Dates: *October 2017 - September 2020*

Awarding institution: *University of Sheffield*

Funding: *Sustainable Care PhD studentship, available for three years of study*

The successful applicant will be awarded a 3-year studentship (subject to satisfactory performance at annual review points) covering doctoral fees and an annual stipend to support living costs¹.

Supervisor(s): [Dr Majella Kilkey](#) Department of Sociological Studies, UoS

[Professor Louise Ryan](#). Department of Sociological Studies, UoS

Linked Work package: *Care 'In' and 'Out of' Place: towards sustainable well-being in mobile and diverse contexts [WPB4]*

Description of the PhD study: This PhD is in Sociology and is focused on exploring the role of new technologies in mediating long distant aged-care relationships between UK-based migrants and their overseas family members. This WP examines the transformation of caring experiences in the context of migration and mobility. The PhD study will be embedded within the wider work of WPB4 which explores the care needs of people implicated in relationships between migration and ageing. These raise particular challenges for sustainable care and wellbeing in terms of cultural and linguistic sensitivities, migration rights, portability of entitlements, networks of support and access to new communication technologies.

Indicative research questions:

- How do migrant care workers reconcile paid work with their transnational familial care responsibilities?
- How is the distant care they provide, or aim to provide, best mediated by new technologies?

Indicative research methods:

The study will use primarily qualitative research methods, which will involve some travel for fieldwork purposes within the UK. Methods are expected to include:

- Multi-sited in-depth longitudinal interviewing
- Social network mapping.

Details will be negotiated with the successful applicant.

Essential Applicant Requirements

- A Masters qualification, or equivalent, in a relevant discipline (awarded, or expected in 2017)
- Demonstrable research skills, supported by a relevant qualification
- Ability to work independently, supported by a supervisory team
- Ability to work in regular dialogue with the wider ESRC Sustainable Care team and as part of the linked WP team (see above; see also 'Expectations of all linked PhD students')
- Strong written and oral communication and presentation skills
- Fluency in English language

Note: In addition, the successful applicant will have the opportunity to connect with prestigious international academic partners linked to WPB4, including at the University of Western Australia, the University of Toronto, Canada and the University of Warsaw, Poland.

¹ The studentship will cover tuition fees at the UK/EU rate (worth approx. £4,170 pa) and will also provide a tax-free stipend at the standard UK Research Council rate (for 2017/18, £14,553 outside London), each for 3 years. Additional funds will be provided for travel and equipment, and students will have access to unique opportunities within the ESRC Sustainable Care programme. NOTE: **International students from outside the EU are eligible to apply, but must have the means to pay the difference between the applicable UK/EU and overseas tuition fee rates.**