

## **ESRC PhD studentships in Security, Conflict & Justice -**

The deadline for applications using the online form is **5pm, Friday 17th February, 2012**

### **What is it?**

*Security, Conflict and Justice* is a new interdisciplinary pathway that recognises that traditional approaches to security studies must now be complemented with new perspectives of issues such as human (in)security more widely, including domestic insecurity and violence, in order to develop better strategies for resolving conflicts and securing social justice. Globalisation has altered the security environment. Violence has, for the most part, shifted from organised inter-state war to protracted warfare fought by irregular units and local militias. Weak states are prone to collapsing, either by the fragmentation of authority, or by external intervention. Climate change, forced migration, gender-based violence, radicalisation, humanitarian emergencies, terrorism, WMD proliferation, have all, to varying degrees, been securitised by states, intergovernmental institutions, and by non-governmental organisations. The broadening of the global security agenda has to date not been accompanied by an increase in the capacity of local, regional, and global actors to respond to these new challenges. What is now required is the development of new theoretical and empirical research on security governance. A vital ingredient in addressing the complex agenda of security governance is an inter-disciplinary pooling of knowledge and expertise that draws together sociological and socio-legal research on human rights, gender, violence and ethnopolitics; area studies expertise on language, culture and practice; and political and legal research on sovereignty, institutions and intervention.

### **Who is it for?**

The *Security, Conflict and Justice* pathway will train researchers who are equipped with the interdisciplinary skills to impact the research, policy and practice needed to avoid and mitigate security risks. Students from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds will be accepted into this pathway.

### **What are the prerequisites?**

Security, Conflict and Justice will offer both 1+3 and +3 studentships. Students applying for the 1+3 programme will have a high honours undergraduate degree or equivalent from a relevant discipline. Students applying for the +3 programme must have completed a MRes or MSc programme with appropriate research training or equivalent by September 2012.

### **What will I study in the first year?**

Research training in the Security, Conflict and Justice pathway will follow the standard SWDTC interdisciplinary format; three core research training modules will be selected from the consortium's offerings in research design, data collection and data analysis; there will be one pathway specific module; and two modules will be selected from an open unit list. The core research training modules will include a new module called *Advanced Interdisciplinary*

*Research Design.* This module will address the characteristics and challenges of ‘doing’ interdisciplinary research. It will be mandatory core training for this pathway. The pathway specific module will be a custom-designed and co-convened core course for the pathway entitled *Contemporary Debates in Security, Conflict and Justice*. This core module will be taught by a cross-institutional team directed by a designated pathway co-ordinator. It will introduce students to key concepts and debates in this field including new and traditional theories of war and violence, as well as sections on state and non-state capacities for conflict prevention, gender based violence and human rights. There is also a research dissertation.

## Who will supervise my thesis?

All students will have two supervisors from different disciplinary perspectives on Security, Conflict and Justice. Students proposing cross-institutional supervision are particularly encouraged. These supervisors will convene joint meetings on a regular basis, and will attend the annual one-day workshop for all pathway students.

## When would it start?

Students will be expected to start on 1st October 2012

## How many studentships are there in this pathway?

Up to two studentships per year will be awarded on a competitive basis.

## How do I apply?

- Work out your substantive research topic.
- Contact the pathway lead at your preferred host University (Bristol, Exeter or Bath) with a brief description of your proposed topic (no more than 1 page). We will then put you in touch with potential supervisor(s) for your topic.
- Write a 1000-word proposal
- Submit your proposal to your host University using their online application form.
- Notes on completing the application form for the CSJ pathway:
  - In Section 1 enter ‘Security, Conflict and Justice’ next to programme
  - In Section 7 tick UK Research Council
  - Your 1000-word proposal should be included in Section 10
  - All applicants are required to provide two references.

## Timeline

- The deadline for applications via the online form is **5pm (BST), Friday 17th February**
- Applicants will be notified whether their application has been successful by the end of May

- Successful applicants will be expected to start in October 2012

## **What does an ESRC studentship cover?**

An ESRC studentship covers University tuition fees plus an annual maintenance stipend ([£13,590 for 2010-11](#)) to contribute towards living expenses. Each studentship also includes a Research Support Grant of £750 per year to encourage students to attend conferences and additional courses external to the University.