

PhD Open Evening 2017

Social Sciences

Part 1: 4.30pm – 6.00pm

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Funding for PhDs in the Social Sciences

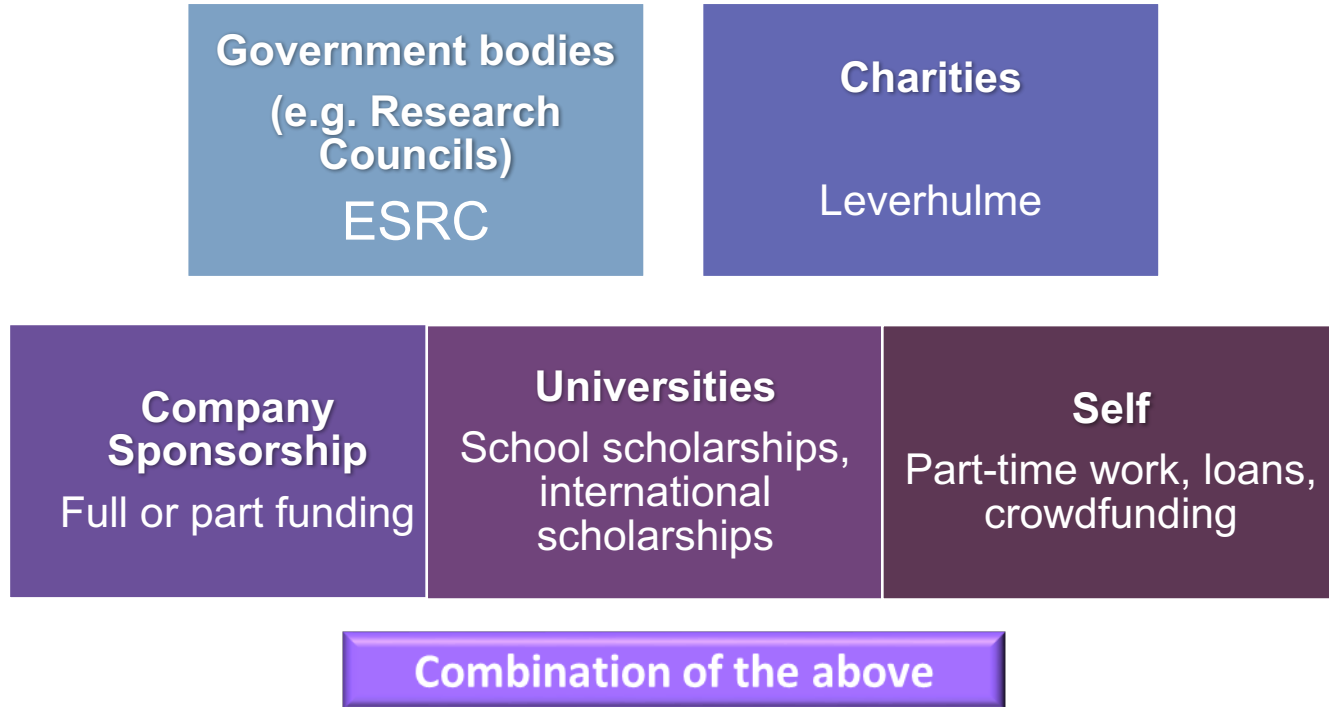
PAUL ROBERTS
DOCTORAL SCHOOL

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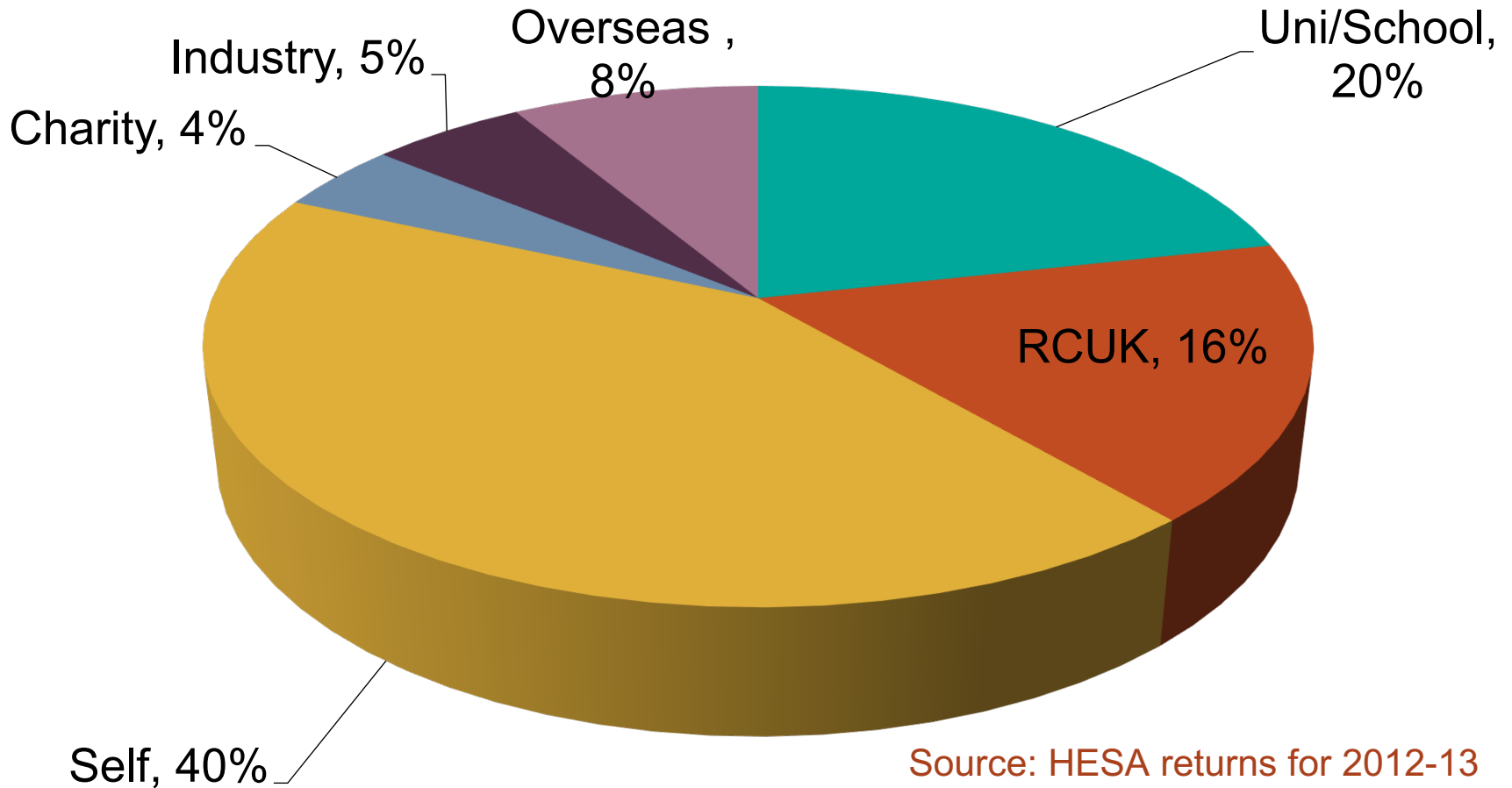
What do you need to fund a Social Sciences PhD?

- Doctoral fees – UK/EU £4,195 pa (2017-18) and overseas £19,200 pa (for 3, 3.5 or 4 years)
- Living costs – standard stipend currently £14,553 pa (2017-18)
- Research and training costs – e.g. field-work, conferences, travel... £750 - £5,000 pa

Who funds Social Sciences PhDs?



Who funds PhDs at UK Universities?



Source: HESA returns for 2012-13

Finding PhD Funding

Sussex PhD Scholarship funding:

- <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/phd/fees-and-scholarships/scholarships/browse>

Other key sites: www.findaphd.com

- <http://www.postgraduatestudentships.co.uk/>
- <http://www.jobs.ac.uk/> <http://www.postgraduate-funding.com>

Overseas Scholarships: schemes with China, Mexico, Chile

Sussex PhD Scholarships

www.sussex.ac.uk/study/phd/fees-and-scholarships/scholarships

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the University of Sussex website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/phd/fees-and-scholarships/scholarships/browse>. The website header includes the University of Sussex logo and navigation links for HOME, ACCESSIBILITY, STAFF, and CURRENT STUDENTS. A main navigation menu is visible with options: STUDY WITH US, ABOUT US, NEWS & EVENTS, INTERNATIONAL, RESEARCH, BUSINESS, and ALUMNI. A breadcrumb trail indicates the current location: Home > Study with us > PhD > PhD fees and scholarships > PhD scholarships.

On the left side, there is a sidebar menu with the following items: Back to previous menu, PhD fees and scholarships, PhD fees, PhD scholarships, PhD loans and funding, and Living costs. The 'PhD scholarships' item is highlighted.

The main content area features the heading 'PhD scholarships' with an RSS feed icon and the text 'RSS feed for these results'. Below this, it states: 'You can also [search on the available opportunities](#) to narrow down your selection.'

Three scholarship listings are shown:

- [Chancellor's International Research Scholarship \(2018\)](#)**
Region: International (Non UK/EU)
Level: PG (research)
Application deadline: 2 February 2018
Eleven fully funded PhD scholarships for international students
- [CHASE AHRC studentship scheme \(2018\)](#)**
Region: UK, Europe (Non UK)
Level: PG (research)
Application deadline: 24 January 2018
Up to 75 Arts and Humanities PhD studentships available from the CHASE Doctoral Training Partnership
- [China Scholarship Council \(CSC\) / University of Sussex Joint Scholarships \(2018\)](#)**

Scholarships for 2018-19 start

- Sussex is part of the South East Network for Social Sciences ([SeNSS](#)), Economic and Social Research Council ([ESRC](#)) funded doctoral training partnership. The SeNSS DTP offers at least 35 studentships across the Social Sciences each year.
- Sussex China Scholarships 2nd February 2018 in all disciplines.



International Students

- **Chancellor's International Research Scholarships 2018**
 - Up to 11 PhD scholarships for overseas students
 - <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/phd/fees-and-scholarships/scholarships/view/795>

- **China Scholarship Council (CSC) / University of Sussex Joint Scholarships (2018)**
 - Up to 10 PhD scholarships for Chinese students
 - www.sussex.ac.uk/study/phd/fees-and-scholarships/scholarships/view/796

Briefing in **Jubilee Lecture Theatre** 7.10 to 7.30 this evening

Employment and Other Funding

- Talk to your employer and consider:
 - A part-time doctorate (available in certain subjects)
 - A secondment to complete a PhD
 - The Sussex Collaborative Doctoral Scholarships where a company and the University pays 50% each

The **Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding** is a searchable database of smaller scholarships with tips for applications.



Part-time employment

- Many postgraduates take paid employment while pursuing their studies
- University employment opportunities – e.g. small amounts of teaching
- With a thriving tourist industry, Brighton is an ideal place to earn extra money to support your studies
- Non-EU students can usually work up to 20 hours each week in term time and full-time in vacations
- Full-time Research Council students should undertake no more than 180 hours work per annum
- Jobs are regularly posted on our Careers and Employability Centre website:

www.sussex.ac.uk/careers

UK PhD loans for 2018

- PhD loans of up to £25,000 are now available to self-funded UK students on **all types of doctorate** at **universities across the UK**. www.findaphd.com/funding/guides/uk-phd-loans-scheme.aspx

UK PhD Loans - updated details	
What?	Student loans for PhD-level qualifications lasting up to six years in all subjects.
How much?	Up to £25,000, not means-tested.
Who?	English-resident UK nationals aged 59 or under without Research Council studentships.
Where?	Any UK university.
When?	Available in 2018.
Repayment?	6% of income over £21,000 per year. Combined with Masters loan debt.

- Career development loans (up to £10k) for UK-based students are available to pay for courses and training that help with your career or help get you into work
www.gov.uk/career-development-loans

Thank you

Email: doctoralfunding@sussex.ac.uk

An aerial photograph of the University of Sussex campus, showing various buildings, courtyards, and green spaces. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text 'Applying for PhD study' is centered in a white serif font.

Applying for PhD study

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When to apply to Sussex

- You can begin your PhD in September, January or May
- The online application system is open all year round
- Make sure you look out for funding deadlines,
 - The main bulk of Research Council 'Doctoral Training Partnerships' are open between October 2017 and January 2018 – however,
 - Individual Studentships are advertised through the year
- If you are an international student, leave at least three months before start dates to apply for your visa to study in the UK.

Where to apply (1)

Psychology PhD

Choose to start in September 2018, January 2019 or May 2019

[Start in the academic year 2017/18 instead?](#)

Key information

Entry requirements

How to apply

Our supervisors

Funding and fees

EXPLORE OUR RESEARCH

Key information

Duration: 4 years full time, [6 years part time](#)

Start date: Choose to start in September 2018, January 2019 or May 2019

From crowd behaviour to perception and studies of the brain – you'll work with experts who will guide and support you through your research project.

Sussex is one of the largest and most diverse centres for the study of psychology in the UK. You'll work in an intellectually stimulating and supportive environment, within a community of postgraduate students, postdoctoral researchers and field-leading faculty.



Where to apply (2)

[HOME](#)



[ACCESSIBILITY](#) | [STAFF](#) | [CURRENT STUDENTS](#)

[STUDY WITH US](#)

[ABOUT US](#)

[NEWS & EVENTS](#)

[INTERNATIONAL](#)

[RESEARCH](#)

[BUSINESS](#)

[ALUMNI](#)



[Home](#) > [Study with us](#) > [PhD](#) > [How to apply for a PhD](#)

[Back to previous menu](#)

[How to apply for a PhD](#)

[Entry requirements for UK applicants](#)

[Entry requirements for international applicants](#)

[Tips for applying for a PhD at Sussex](#)

[Your offer and confirming your place](#)

[Academic Technology Approval Scheme \(ATAS\)](#)

[Admissions policies for PhD degrees](#)

How to apply for a PhD

We are looking for ambitious, talented and motivated students. You'll have the passion to make new discoveries, the drive to test new theories, and the willingness to go above and beyond.



How do I apply?

For most of our PhD degrees you apply using our online application service.

You can [set up an account](#) or [log in to start your application](#).



Entry requirements

- Our courses require either a first or upper second class undergraduate honours degree in a relevant subject area
- Many courses also require an MA or an MSc, or evidence of work experience/further study in the subject area
- Specific English language requirements for each course are listed in our prospectus, and University of Sussex doctoral courses online

What should your application include?

Completing the application form

Follow our guidance to help you complete each section of the application form:

Personal details	+
Address	+
Education and qualifications	+
English language	+
Relevant experience	+
Supporting documents and references	×

You must provide:

- research proposal
- degree certificates
- transcript of your grades
- your English language qualification, if appropriate
- two academic references - including one from your most recent university. Or you can provide contact details for your referee and we will email them.

Academic interests	+
Submitting the application	+
Monitoring the application	+
Submitting more than one application	+

Choosing a supervisor

COURSE	FACULTY	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	SCHOLARSHIPS AND FEES
<h2>How to apply</h2> <p>If you'd like to join us as a research student, there are two main routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ browse scholarships and funded projects in this subject area■ find a potential supervisor and propose your own research project. <p>Find out how to apply for a PhD at Sussex</p>			

EXPLORE OUR RESEARCH

COME TO OUR OPEN EVENING

Faculty

Explore our research interests and find a potential supervisor.

ATOMIC, MOLECULAR AND OPTICAL PHYSICS	+
EXPERIMENTAL PARTICLE PHYSICS	+
THEORETICAL PARTICLE PHYSICS	+

HOME

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ACCESSIBILITY | STAFF | CURRENT STUDENTS

STUDY WITH US ABOUT US NEWS & EVENTS INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH BUSINESS ALUMNI

Home > About us > Schools and departments > School of Life Sciences > Research

Homepage
About the School
Undergraduate
Postgraduate
Research
News and events
Seminars
Showcase
People and contacts

School of Life Sciences

Research

Research lies at the heart of the School of Life Sciences and underpins our outstanding Undergraduate and Postgraduate taught courses, and our vibrant programme of Postgraduate Research.

Life Sciences' research activities are organized around five subject group

- [Biochemistry and Biomedicine](#)
- [Chemistry](#)
- [Evolution behaviour and environment](#)
- [Genome damage and stability](#)
- [Neuroscience](#)

However, collaboration and cross-disciplinary research cut across these groups at all levels. Our collaborations extend to other Schools in the University, including the Brighton and Sussex Medical School, and to other Universities and Research Institutes world-wide.

If you are a postdoctoral researcher please refer to the [research staff page](#) which has comprehensive information about all aspects of being a member of research staff at Sussex including information about careers, funding, practical support and policies.

Institutional Strategic Support Fund

The Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF) is a joint award by the [Wellcome Trust](#) and the University, to support our translational research strategy.

Research Groups

- [Dementia Research Group](#)
- [Energy and Materials Chemistry](#)
- [Evolution Research Group](#)
- [Gene Expression Research Group](#)
- [Laboratory of Apiculture and Social Insects \(LASI\)](#)
- [Neurodegenerative Disease and Ageing Research Centre](#)

Research Centres

- [Genome Damage and Stability Centre](#)
- [Centre for Computational Neuroscience and Robotics](#)
- [Sussex Neuroscience](#)
- [Sussex Drug Discovery Centre](#)

Facilities and Resources

In Life Sciences we have the following facilities.

- [Electron Microscopy](#)
- [Mass Spectrometry](#)

Choosing a supervisor

- Once you have identified a potential supervisor, make contact and discuss your proposed project with them
- Take their advice: they will be part of the decision on whether to offer you a place at Sussex (and you will need to get used to them offering you advice throughout your studies...)
- It is important to build up a relationship with your supervisor as early as possible
- Your supervisors will ultimately be appointed by the relevant School depending on your specific project and their expertise.

Selection process

- Your academic and English language qualifications as well as your fee status (whether you should be paying Home or Overseas tuition fees) will be assessed by admissions staff
- Your research proposal and personal statement will be assessed by academic staff in the relevant School of study
- You will probably be invited for an interview
- You should expect to hear back from us within 8 weeks of submitting your application.

What is selection based on?

- Previous qualifications, or professional equivalence
- A topic the University is able to Supervise
- A topic with sufficient depth to produce new knowledge (a Doctorate)
- Background knowledge of the proposed topic and why it should be investigated
- Motivation: why Sussex and why a PhD?

Queries

- For technical queries, contact:
onlineapplications@sussex.ac.uk
- For queries about your application, contact:
researchstudentoffice@sussex.ac.uk
- Admissions information desk in Jubilee 155.

Good luck!

Paul Roberts

Assistant Director of the Doctoral
School

doctoralschool@sussex.ac.uk

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Life as a PhD student

Benjamin Thorne



PhD Open Evening
1st November 2017

Life as a PhD Student

Benjamin Thorne

PhD candidate in Law Studies

Thesis Title: Legal Witnessing and Mass Human Rights Violations:
Remembering Atrocities

**EAT.
SLEEP.
PhD.
REPEAT.**

- **Week in the life of a PhD student**
- **Challenges & rewards of doing a PhD**
- **The supervision relationship**
- **So, has it all been worth it so far...?**

What is the average week in the life a PhD student?

OR

Is there such a thing as an average week?

ACADEMIA

PRO

YOU CAN WORK WHENEVER
YOU WANT! EVERY DAY
IS A SATURDAY!



CON

YOU WORK ON SATURDAYS.



JORGE CHAM © 2017

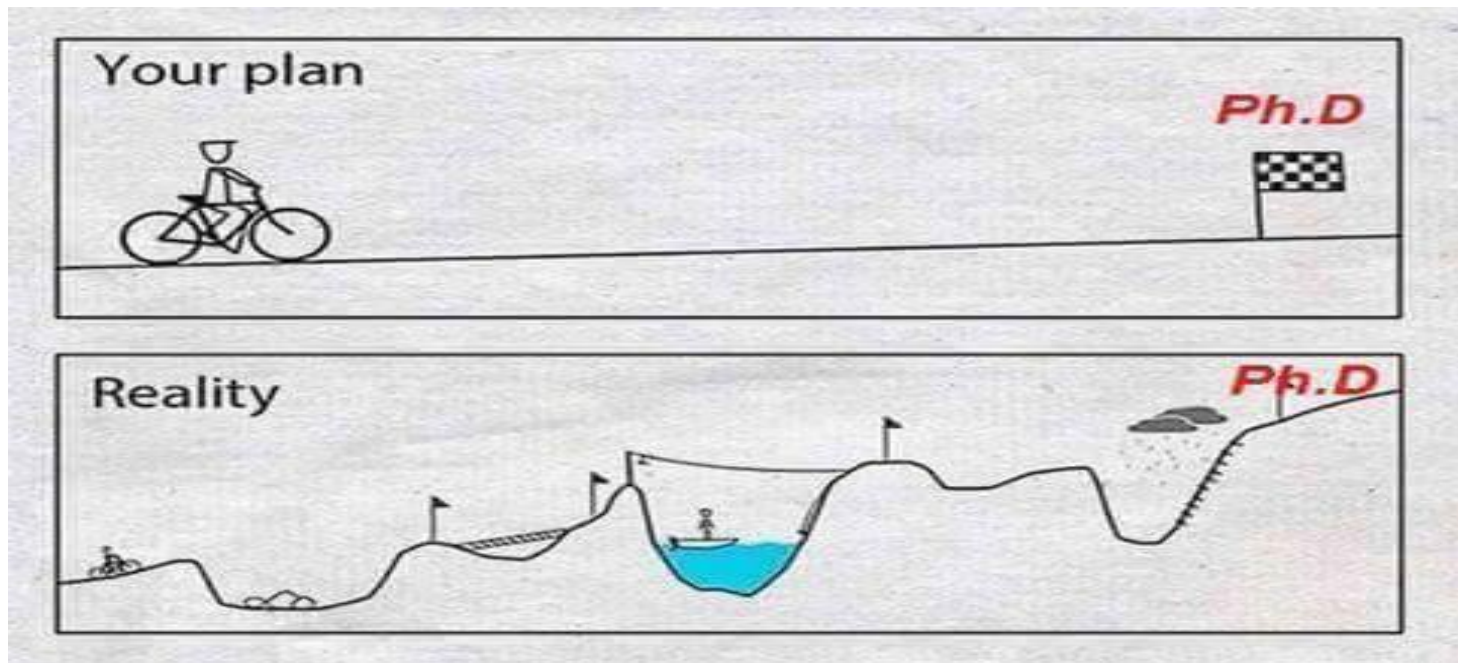
'My' PhD work structure

- Think of it as a job – Monday-Friday (8.30 – 4.30ish)



- Although, not always based in the office!

Challenges and Rewards of the PhD




PhD Supervisor relationship

- *'The relationship between a PhD student and their supervisor is kind of like a marriage' (though a bit of a weird marriage!)*



Roll Up, Roll Up – Come ride the PhD Rollercoaster...



Having a good relationship with my supervisors

Institutional Visit - Being accepted on the Doctoral visitors programme at the University of Oxford

Organising a panel and presenting a paper at an International Conference

Being informed at the start of my 2nd year that my lead supervisor will be away for several months for health reasons.

'Imposter Syndrome' - I don't belong here!

So, What has the PhD experience been like so far?





Thank You

Acknowledgments

The authors wish to thank coffee, coffee, coffee,
coffee, coffee, coffee, coffee, coffee, coffee,
coffee, coffee, more coffee, coffee, coffee, coffee,
coffee, the person that served us the coffee,
coffee, coffee, coffee, coffee, coffee, coffee,
coffee, coffee, coffee, extra coffee, and coffee.
Also, our Moms.



Writing a research proposal

PhD Open Day November 2017

Social Sciences

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Which proposals?

On application
(ESRC initial)

For external funding

ESRC DTP (+Supervisor help)
Confirmation / Upgrade /



Working Title



Working title

Locates the subject of the inquiry at a glance

Main title: expansion

At the top: a study of Muslim women in elite jobs.

Power to the people: the political economy of electricity production and distribution in Central Asia.

Or single

UK Immigration policy in the 21st century and its effect on public services.

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Rationale / Introduction and Thesis statement



Focus:

Add detail about the topic of inquiry

Frame as a problem

Context:

What an outside reader would need to know about in order to make sense

- History
- Geography
- Politics

Importance of study:

- to policy
- to practice
- to the academy
- to the world
- to you
- why now?

Potential non academic collaborators

Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

Research that has been done or is being done:

- In this area

- In related areas

- Connected to interests and experience of Supervisor / Research Centre/ Department.

Critical – awareness of differences.

How will your research relate to the field?

Significant original knowledge

Theoretical resources:

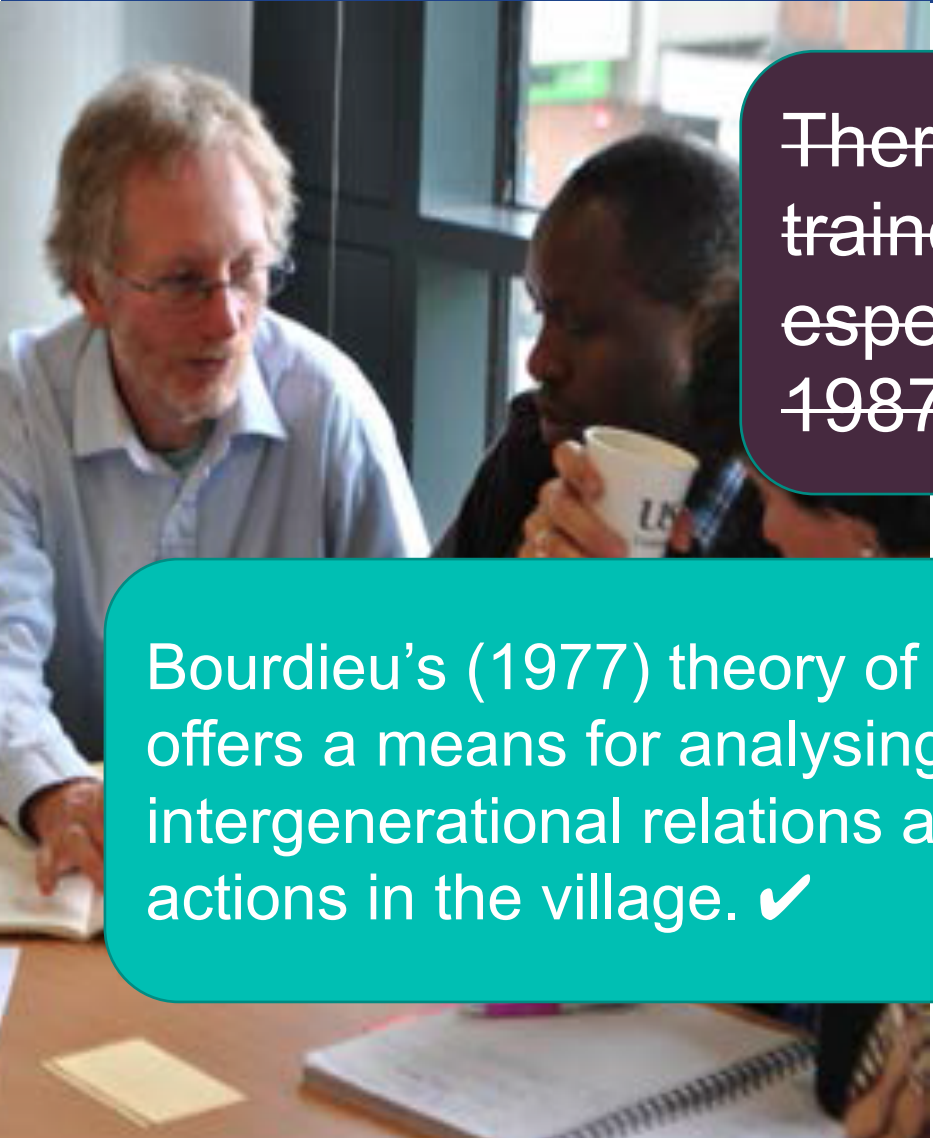
- Definite

- Candidate

- In literature review or elsewhere.



Citing the Literature



~~There is a severe shortage of trained nurses in Ghana, especially in the north (Bleek 1987).~~ ✘

Bourdieu's (1977) theory of practice offers a means for analysing the intergenerational relations and actions in the village. ✔

Only indicative texts – not any date

Research questions / Thesis

Two or three research main questions

How does civil society interact with the state in the provision of health care in Northern Ghana?

To what extent is government decentralization affecting this?

One overarching research question with sub-questions

How has the critical pedagogy approach to popular education employed by NGOs impacted on people's ability to effect social transformation in Northern Ghana?

- What tenets of critical pedagogy methodology make it appropriate to the context of social movements?
- How effective can critical pedagogical methods be in linking social movements across the different regions of the north?
- What factors have shaped the development of these methods/
- How can the appropriateness of critical pedagogy to varied contexts be evaluated?



Methodology

Overall disciplinary agreement:

Anthropology

Economics

Clear disciplinary mainstream

Political science

Psychology

Law

Management and business studies

Disciplinary pluralism

Science and technology studies

International Relations

Development studies

Social policy

Social work

Geography

Education

Sociology

Theory here?



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Research design and methods



How you will structure the research – stages

Scope: location, sample, timing

Methods to be used – justified

Data analysis

Ethical issues

Does this fit with research questions?

Fit with theoretical approach?

Is it practicable?

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Presentation



Keep it concise (shorter rather than longer)

Use headings

Write it simply – shorter rather than longer sentences.

Usually use first person, and passive (definite avoid ‘the author’)

Check it for typos and English.

Get a friend to double check.

Possible Structure

1. Rationale
2. Literature review
3. Research questions
4. Research design and methodology
5. Ethical considerations
6. Bibliography

Or

1. Introduction
2. Thesis statement
3. Literature review
4. Theoretical framework
5. Methodology
6. Ethical considerations
7. Bibliography



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University of Sussex
Celebrating 50 years of excellence

Land as a new « rent of dependency »?

Large-scale land acquisitions and power politics in Madagascar.

Mathilde Gingembre
PHD Supervisors: Ian Scoones & Jim Sumberg



Summary of the research:

This research seeks to provide an analysis of the current phenomenon of "land grabs" by focusing on the case of Madagascar.

In an approach combining political science and development studies, it focuses on the multi-level negotiation procedures that are currently followed by investors in their drive to buy or lease significant tracts of farmland in the country. It attempts to identify those actors who have/claim to have a power of control over access to natural resources in the country, to understand their positions with regards to the land deals at stake, to assess the power and discretion they have during the negotiation and finally to weigh the impact of their involvement/exclusion on the modalities of the final deal and on its articulation with previous property and use rights.



Map showing targeted land encroachment on a grain-producing community (VCI) land use rights. Case study 1, Sava region.



Minister of Agriculture during an interview. Case study 1.

Most investors look for "idle land" but those seen here are not. Case study 3, Boroambo region (25 ha jarapha nursery plantation on the right-hand side of picture).

Villagers showing one of the boundary stones demarcating the plot of land acquired by the investor. Case study 3, Sava region.

Relevance:

While many studies explore the different drivers behind the international land rush, insufficient attention is being paid to the motivations of host states. The sale or leasing of big tracts of land under unfavourable conditions is generally understood as the action of strong players profiting from southern states' internal deficiencies, lack of regulation and corrupted system.

Despite their salience, these arguments fail to look at the action of the national power-holders themselves and to understand the "strategies of extraversion" (Bayart 2000) by which the creation of dependence towards the outside world (e.g. selling crucial natural resources at cheap prices) can be transformed into a "rent".

Furthermore, very few studies explore the processes through which contentious land deals are struck in contexts where customary rights do, in principle, benefit from legal protection. Madagascar offers a key site to study these processes.

Conceptual framework and hypothesis

Negotiation procedures for Malagasy land will be analysed through the "powercube" framework (Gaventa 2006).

Examining the different levels of power and how these interact will help analyse the crucial impact that the relation the Malagasy state holds with the outside world (global level) has on the constitution of its internal politics as well as the implications that the "rhizome" nature of the Malagasy state (Bayart 1989) has on the effectiveness of decentralisation processes (national and local levels).

The analysis will also take into consideration the different spaces of power (closed, invited and claimed spaces) in which land deals are discussed or contested, and examine how their boundaries are shaped by the interactions and resources of the various stakeholders involved in negotiation processes.

Current regime (IMAT) - centralising control
Procedure for large-scale land acquisitions
Min 322-2010/MAT/061/003P
25/01/2010



The flowchart details the process from 'Assessment of project (business plan)' to 'Registration of the right to use, and creation of a leaseable plot'. Key stages include: Assessment of project (business plan) -> Submission of application to the Council of Ministers -> Site inspection and boundary marking -> Provisional agreement -> Drafting up of provisional contract -> Approval of provisional contract -> Registration of the right to use, and creation of a leaseable plot.

The research will also pay attention to the forms of power (visible, hidden, invisible) in order to make sure all types of control and domination are considered, not only the explicit ones. Using a Bourdieusian approach to power, attention will be focused on the intersections between relations of meanings and relations of power.

Presentation of the 5 ongoing case studies



Map showing the locations of the 5 ongoing case studies: Case study 1 (Sava region), Case study 2 (Boroambo region), Case study 3 (Sava region), Case study 4 (Sava region), and Case study 5 (Sava region).

Methodology

Initial field research has already been carried out on five different land-related investments for agricultural purposes (2011). Three more years are needed to complete this project (first year: strengthening the theoretical framework; second year: further fieldwork; last year: analysis of results and thesis writing).

Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with the various stakeholders involved in the discussions (government officials, civil servants, local and regional govts, brokers, customary power-holders, land users/dwellers...), with those who feel/are excluded from the official negotiation process and finally with the actors directly affected by the investment project. The research also involves analysing the written material that is produced and used throughout the negotiation process.

Comparison of case studies will be led using the Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) methods with an aim to underlying patterns and significant causal combinations.

SeNSS

South East Network for Social Sciences
Funding for Doctoral Research in the Social Sciences

Alan Garnham

Professor of Experimental Psychology

ESRC Doctoral Training Director

Sussex Academic Lead for SeNSS

The logo of the University of Sussex, featuring the letters 'US' in a stylized, white, serif font.

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SeNSS – who are we?



South East Network for Social Sciences

A consortium of 10 Universities in the South East of England, who joined together to apply for an ESRC DTP (Doctoral Training Partnership) for ESRC students starting their studies in 2017 to 2022

- Sussex, East Anglia, Essex, Goldsmiths, Kent, Reading, Royal Holloway, Surrey are the main partners
- Essex is the lead institution
- City and Roehampton contain pockets of research excellence



There are 14 DTPs, including SeNSS across the UK, with 73 different member institutions



Vision for Doctoral Training

ESRC

The principal objective of our postgraduate training strategy is to deliver excellence in postgraduate training by building on the considerable strengths that exist across the social science community. We aim to support the development of highly capable and innovative researchers for a wide range of careers.

SeNSS

The SeNSS DTP consortium is committed to providing world-class doctoral training for the next generation of social scientists, while ensuring astute, strategic use of ESRC resources, to produce enhancements in research training capacity among a critical mass of research-intensive UK universities.

SeNSS Pathways

Research Training in SeNSS will be offered in 13 Social Science Pathways, 12 of which are represented at Sussex

- Business and Management Studies
- Development Studies
- Economics
- Education
- Human Geography
- Politics and International Studies
- Psychology
- Science, Technology and Sustainability
- Social Anthropology
- Social Work and Social Policy
- Socio-Legal Studies
- Sociology



The 13th Pathway is Linguistics

SeNSS Pathways

Each Pathway has:

- One Consortium-wide Pathway Chair
- At each institution that takes part in the Pathway, a Pathway Institutional Lead



Benefits of a SeNSS Studentship

1. Fees and living expenses, covered by a stipend (including masters year, where relevant).
2. You can apply for money to travel to conferences and events relevant to your research.
3. Events with other SeNSS students across the consortium
4. Access to (funded) generic training and training specific to your individual needs (learning Latin, for example, or particular software programs)
5. Opportunity to gain work experience with non-educational partners, like Sage Publishing, the British Library, or the UK Government
6. Opportunity for Overseas Fieldwork and difficult language training



Who can Apply?

- SeNSS ESRC funding is available to Home and EU students. Economics is the only Pathway open to International students.
- Students must satisfy the standard Research Council eligibility criteria: see the RCUK Terms and Conditions for Training Grants to check
- EU students not resident in the UK for three years prior to 30 September 2018 may be eligible for a fees-only award
- Students in their 1st year of Doctoral study can (re-)apply
- Students in their 2nd year of Doctoral study can (re-) apply, if currently part-time
- If you are not sure about your eligibility for a SeNSS studentship: contact Shelley Jenkins (S.L.Jenkins@sussex.ac.uk)



Who can Apply?

- ESRC funds both 4-year and 3-year studentships.
- 4 year studentships are for students who have not received masters level training on a methods-based masters course
 - At Sussex we offer the 1+3 model, where the first year is spent studying for a recognised methods-based masters, and the final three years are spent on the PhD
- 3 year studentships are for students who have received masters level training on a methods-based masters course
 - The three years are devoted to the PhD
- You will need to check with the relevant Sussex academics whether you should be applying for a four-year or a three-year studentship
- There are part-time equivalents of both 4-year and 3-year students



SeNSS Application Process and Timetable (or: 6 months of work and wait, but worth it)

APPLICATION

- 2 October 2017** Applications opened for SeNSS 2017 studentship competition (via SeNSS Fluidreview system)
- 21 January 2018** Deadline for students to apply for Doctoral study at Sussex
- 31 January** Deadline for SeNSS applications at Sussex
- 20 February** Deadline for Sussex studentship nominations to be sent to SeNSS (3 nominations per pathway)
-

SELECTION

- 22 Feb - 1 March** Institutional Pathway Leads formally evaluate nominations in their Pathway
- 7 Mar** SeNSS Pathway Groups rank nominations and make recommendations to Management Board
- 8-9 March** Evaluations compiled centrally by SeNSS (separate lists, for 3-year and 4-year studentships)
- 28 March** SeNSS Management Board makes final recommendations
-

OUTCOMES

- 29-30 March** Applicants informed of outcomes, with deadline of two weeks to accept

Sussex Procedures

1. You apply for a PhD place at Sussex by 21 Jan 2017. You indicate in 'other information' that you wish to apply for SeNSS funding. You cannot apply for SeNSS funding without applying for a place at Sussex.
2. Once an academic has agreed to supervise you, you should discuss your interest in applying to SeNSS. You will need their support to proceed.
3. Your supervisor will request the link to the SeNSS application form from the relevant Sussex Pathway Lead.
4. You complete the online form, including details of your referees and supervisor(s)
5. Your referees and supervisor(s) are sent an automated email to complete their section of the form. You will only be able to submit if these sections are complete.
6. Your full SeNSS application must be submitted online by 31 January.
7. You may be required to attend an interview.

SeNSS Selection Criteria

Proposals are evaluated according to three sets of criteria:

- Evidence of the Quality and Feasibility of the Proposal (40%)
- Evidence that you are well-prepared for your proposed research and future career (40%)
- Evidence of the suitability of the proposed supervision and training (20%)



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The SeNSS Application

The application has three parts:

1) Your Application

- Questions about you
- Description of your project



2) The names of two referees who will be asked to write references

3) The name of your proposed lead supervisor who will provide a Supervisor Statement, which addresses the three criteria from the supervisor's point of view, and which also provides information about the supervisor's own experience and record of supervision

Referees and supervisor are allowed 4000 characters

Your Part of the Application

Various questions about you, and what you are applying for (Institution/Pathway/FT or PT etc.)

Proposal

Title – 80 characters

Abstract – 3800 characters

Main Proposal 10,000 characters

Description of Proposal

Research Background and Research Questions

Research Methods

Schedule of Work

Bibliography

Ethical Considerations

Details of Methods Training

Programme and areas of teaching

Do you need?

Difficult Language Training

OS Fieldwork

What not to do

A funding application does **not** ask for a short **essay**, it asks for an explanation of the research you are hoping to do. **Presenting an essay or an argument** in your application—when you haven't done the research yet-- looks **unprofessional**

Given how competitive the funding climate now is, applying for a studentship is very much like applying for a job.

So:

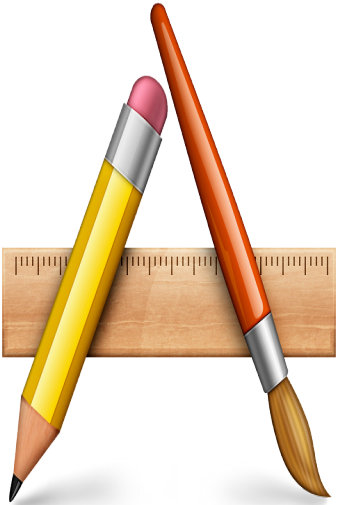
1. Don't feel you have to impress your reader with how clever you are, but spend your time persuading them of **how interesting and original and important** your project is
2. Don't use too much specialist language, detail, and a long bibliography—you then waste words you could use to describe your work
3. **To say 'this hasn't been done before' is not enough**; give a rationale for your work (timeliness, benefits for the field as a whole, a new research context, whatever)
4. **Don't ignore the guidance** that comes with the form—and check your eligibility
5. You can apply to other DTPs as well, but **not to another university within SeNSS**; apply for **co-supervision** with that institution instead, if appropriate



What successful applicants do

Bear in mind who will be reading your application: it might not be someone who is a specialist in your field, but someone who is informed about your Discipline /Pathway generally

Consider that whoever will be reading your application is seeing lots of others too, so you need to give them **a good idea of what your project is about in the first few sentences of your application and preferably in your title**, so:



1. Make sure your **title** gives a good indication of what your project is about
2. Communicate the nature and purpose of your project briefly and in clear, accessible language in the **introduction**
3. Be: a) succinct b) precise and c) **assertive in your expression** ('I will' rather than 'I would like to').
4. Use the **limited number of words** you have to be **as informative and as definite about your project** as you can be. (rather than 'this research considers the representation of exile in various ways' say what these ways are, so you don't leave questions in the reader's mind about whether you really know what you'll be doing)
5. Write your application in stages, so you can **edit, edit, edit** along the way

How to write a good one

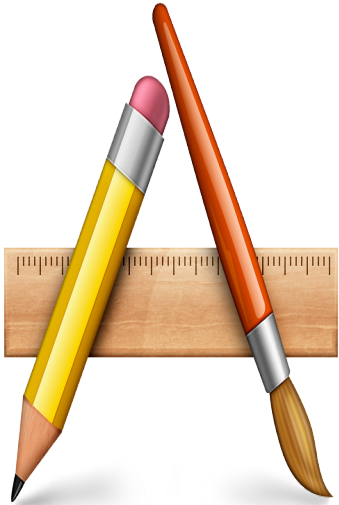
Make use of the **guidance notes** for the application form. They are there to help you structure your application and to ensure comparability of proposals.

Structure your proposal with suitable subheadings for ease of reading:

1. general statement of the topic ideally this is already clear from the title; otherwise use your opening paragraph to say what your research is about and what its purpose is.

2. research context and contribution to knowledge This is where you locate your work in relation to what already exists and you outline here what is new about yours (what is new legitimates your application for funding). To say 'such and such [my project] has not been done before' is not really enough; the reader could legitimately respond: so what? Lots of things haven't been done; *tell me why it needs doing*.

3. research questions These should be formulated as *questions*, not arguments or issues. Since you haven't done the research yet, you can't know what your argument will be; the most you can have is a hypothesis. Your questions should follow naturally from what you have already said about your topic and existing work in the field.



How to write a good one

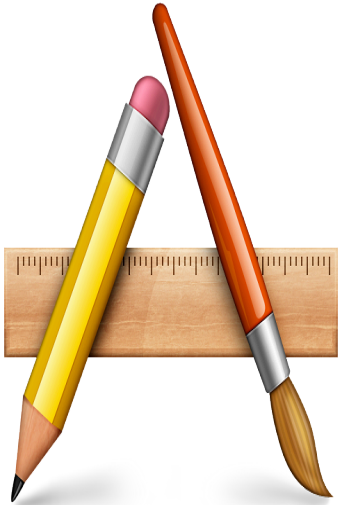
4. methods Describe here how you are going to answer your research questions: by means of archival research, interviews, questionnaires, experimental methods, a combination of some of these?

Make explicit, if you are working only with written sources, what your **analytical method or theory** in dealing with these sources will be (for example, primary source analysis, close reading, feminist theory).

Methods are not the same as resources; by all means mention here which materials in which archives, for example, you will need to consult, but the method to specify then is '**archival research.**'

5. schedule for completion. Make this as concrete as you can. Although you haven't done the research yet, it is really useful for you to think through all the eventualities ('**obtain ethical approval**' for example) and set time aside for them. This will make your project look well planned and do-able within the time of the award you are applying for. By all means use 3-month blocks but list them by date, 'Jan-March 2017' etc. Allow for at least three months of revision and review at the end—this is only realistic.

6. indicative bibliography. List major and main works here, and focus on serious scholarship, not journalism or short pieces. Longer is not necessarily better and often just wastes words you could use better elsewhere.



And Finally...

Good Luck!

Further questions?

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