

URGENT

Project: Discrimination, Distress and Higher Education in India

Research Assistant (RA) Post

Duration: fixed term contract from **1 September 2016 - 31st August 2017**, issued by
Center for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Science-III
Jawaharlal Nehru University
Location: New Delhi, India

For further enquiries contact:

Dr Amit Thorat
Assistant Professor, Center for the Study of Regional Development
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi -110067
India.
Email: amitthorat@gmail.com
Tel: +91-9811553346

Overview of the project

People historically subordinated as 'untouchable' within Indian society have long invested their aspirations in higher education as the means achieve to full citizenship. Yet evidence is mounting that caste discrimination, & its intersection with gender and class, persists within even the most prestigious universities. The recent clusters of suicides among Dalit students in top universities is the tragic outcome of a deep, complex but little understood set of problems. Only by bringing together expertise and experience across social and mental health sciences will it be possible to grasp why for many high-achieving Dalits universities become places of social defeat. This project explores institutional, social, and psychological processes underlying high dropout rates, poor educational performance and suicidal distress among those who experience humiliation and other violation of claims to equal recognition. The project will draw lessons of wider relevance to student mental health, identify processes leading to distress, and develop interventions to support those who are vulnerable. The project is jointly funded by the British Academy, University College London, Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, New Delhi, & JNU, New Delhi.

We seek a qualified social scientist for a 12-month fixed position as Research Assistant on this innovative and exciting project. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed between 1-15 August 2016.

Roles and Responsibilities of RA

1. Communicate with, network and coordinate a team of social scientists over a period of 12 months.
2. Conduct, transcribe and analyse focus group discussions with key informants.
3. Administer, transcribe and analyse qualitative semi-structured interviews with key informants.
4. Undertake a literature review and contribute to academic and other lay publications.
5. Carry out day to day administration for arranging meetings, liaising and prompt co-ordination with PI, Co-PI and lead researchers of the research project.
6. Moderate day to day interactive web site for networking, following training by employer.

Person Specification

Essential

1. PhD/Post-Doc in Social Sciences and /or related fields such as mental health.
2. Commitment to addressing Caste related distress.
3. Commitment for 12 month period commencing 1 September 2016 - 31 August 2017.
4. Research experience and academic knowledge related to caste.
5. Extensive experience with qualitative methodologies including focus groups and conducting individual interviews.
6. Record of publication / written pieces of research.
7. Fluency in spoken and written English and Hindi.
8. Excellent interpersonal and social skills in communicating with Indian and overseas partners.
9. Flexibility with times in order to respond to PI and Co-PI and networking tasks.
10. Excellent computing skills, e.g. word, power point, spreadsheets, google searches, etc.
11. Willingness to be trained in moderating an interactive website for a virtual network, under supervision of academic staff on the project.
12. Valid Indian passport for travel to United Kingdom, single trip.

Desirable

1. Knowledge of mixed methods research.
2. Enthusiasm for contributing to enhance the research.
3. Research experience in Identity related research.
4. Knowledge of running and moderating e-discussion list.
5. Organising academic events such as workshops, guest lectures, etc.

Benefits

1. Co-authorship on designated publications.
2. Gain extensive knowledge on caste and mental health.
3. Develop advanced research skills.
4. Experience of networking with national and international scholars in the field of Caste and Mental Health.

Salary

Rupees 35,000.00 - 45,000.00. Depending on experience and expertise. No other allowances.

How to Apply

Please email full CV and names of at least 2 referees to Dr Amit Thorat at amitthorat@gmail.com, along with a covering letter explaining your suitability for this post.

Project Officers

Principal Investigator

Dr Sushrut Jadhav MBBS, MD, MRCPsych., PhD
Senior Lecturer in Cross-cultural Psychiatry, University College London.
Consultant Psychiatrist, Clinical Lead, Focus Homeless Services, Camden & Islington NHS Foundation Trust
Co-director, UCL Cultural Consultation Service for Students & Staff
Founding Editor, *Anthropology & Medicine* journal (Taylor and Francis, UK)
Email: s.jadhav@ucl.ac.uk

Web links:

Academic: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/psychiatry/people/profiles/jadhav>

C & I Clinical Cultural Consultation Service: <http://www.candi.nhs.uk/health-professionals/cultural-consultation-service-ccs>

UCL Academic Cultural Consultation Service: www.ucl.ac.uk/ccs

Anthropology & Medicine Journal: <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/canm>

Watch 'Minds of Caste': <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/stream/media/swatch?v=77a6b8d8263e>

Read: Caste and the Clinic: http://www.india-seminar.com/2012/633/633_interview.htm

Bloomsbury Cultural Formulation Interview: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ccs/specialist-services>

Co-Principal Investigator

Dr. Amit Thorat, PhD
Assistant Professor, Center for the Study of Regional Development
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi -110067
India.
Tel: +91-9811553346
Email: amitthorat@gmail.com
Web link: <http://www.jnu.ac.in/FacultyStaff/ShowProfile.asp?SendUserName=athorat>

Collaborator

Dr. Sumeet Jain, PhD
Lecturer in Social Work
School of Social & Political Science
University of Edinburgh
Chrystal Macmillan Building
15A George Square
Edinburgh EH8 9LD, United Kingdom
Tel +44 (0)131 6511463
Email sumeet.jain@ed.ac.uk
Web link: http://www.socialwork.ed.ac.uk/staff_profiles/jain_sumeet