

## 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:

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#### 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](mailto: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)  
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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](http://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](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**

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### **Collaborator**

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