ESRC Policy Fellowships 2021:

Fellowship Title: SG Health Inequalities

Host: Scottish Government See also Statistics and research - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

Host team: Population Health Analysis Unit, Health and Social Care Analysis Division

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Summary: Advocate and support evidence-based change to reduce health inequalities and improve women's health in Scotland.

Policy topic: Social Policy, Public Health, Women's Health

Potentially relevant academic disciplines: Social Policy, Political Science, Behavioural Science, Sociology, Gender Studies

Relevant Career Stage: Early career

Practical details

Start of 3-month inception phase: December 2021 or January 2022

Length of core placement: 9-12 months

FTE for core placement (range): 0.5 - 1

Location requirements: Flexible on location, subject to ongoing covid restrictions there is potential for the role to be remote or partially based in a Scottish Government building if desired.

Necessary level of security clearance: Baseline Personnel Security Standard will be required and may require 4-6 weeks to obtain. See National security vetting: clearance levels - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Detailed description

The fellowship will focus on health inequalities and women's health – two high priority policy areas for the Scottish Government. A core aim of Scotland's National Performance Framework is ensuring that 'we live long, healthy and active lives regardless of where we come from' and 'a sustainable, inclusive economy with equality of outcomes for all' is a Public Health Priority for Scotland. A Minister for Public Health, Women's Health and Sport was recently appointed, and publication of a Women's Health Plan is a priority for the first 100 days of the new Scottish Government.

The fellowship will focus on ensuring that the cross-Government approach to tackling Scotland's health inequalities (including women's health inequalities) is underpinned by robust research and supported with effective monitoring and evaluation. While the specific focus of the work would be tailored to the research fellow's skillset and interests, potential workstreams include:

- Building an evidence base on women's health inequalities, with specific focus on the impact of sexism, racism, ableism and other forms of discrimination on women's health.
- Providing analytical support and advice on women's health metrics.
- Collaborating with the Glasgow Centre for Population Health and Public Health Scotland to enhance the existing evidence base on health inequalities, and their social and economic determinants, at national and local level.

- Providing analytical support and advice on options for identifying and measuring impacts of covid on health inequalities for different groups, including monitoring continuing or new trends as they emerge.
- Providing analytical support and advice on monitoring progress towards improved health equality outcomes.

The fellow will work as part of the multi-disciplinary Population Health Analysis Unit within the Scottish Government's Health and Social Care Analysis Division. Knowledge exchange opportunities will include ongoing engagement with analytical and policy teams, including provision of analytical advice and participation in government research projects on health inequalities and women's health; collaboration with key government partners and stakeholders; and seminars to share research findings.

Opportunity-specific person specification

Applications will be assessed against the following opportunity-specific requirements in addition to the generic eligibility and call criteria.

Skills/ expertise:

- Broad awareness of the role of quantitative and qualitative social research methods and their application
- Knowledge of social research and analytical methodologies and ability to demonstrate practical application of qualitative and/or quantitative approaches
- A research background in public health and gender or another health-related subject is desirable