

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

Senior Research Associate (0.8FTE), **Law School/Centre for Child and Family Justice Research**

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| **Job Title:** Senior Research Associate (0.8FTE) | **Present Grade:** 7P |
| **Department/College:** Law School/Centre for Child and Family Justice Research | |
| **Directly responsible to:** Dr Linda Cusworth, Research Fellow (Principal Investigator) | |
| **Supervisory responsibility for:** N/A | |
| **Other contacts** | |
| **Internal:** Project team members; academic, research and administrative colleagues in the Centre, department, faculty, and across the University; University central support services (Research Support Office, Faculty Finance, HR, Press Office). | |
| **External:**  Research team at University of Bristol, Kinship and Families in Harmony, including peer researchers; The Nuffield Foundation (funder); judiciary and court staff; relevant research funding bodies and councils; professional bodies; local and UK government officials; academic and research networks; project advisory group and young people’s group. | |
| **The Project**  **‘The forgotten 10%’: private family law applications involving non-parents**  Most private family law applications are between two parents, but around 10% involve one or more adults who are not the child’s parent, such as grandparents, aunts/uncles and siblings. This ‘forgotten 10%’ have been overlooked in research, policy and practice. Funded by the Nuffield Foundation, and in collaboration with researchers at the University of Bristol, peer researchers, and practice partners Kinship and Families in Harmony, this project will investigate the circumstances, needs and experiences of children and families involved. Further information on the project is available on our website (<https://www.cfj-lancaster.org.uk/projects/forgotten-ten-percent>).  The mixed-methods study consists of three workstreams: a literature review and data scoping exercise; analysis of in-depth qualitative and quantitative data collected from family court casefiles for 400-500 non-parent cases; qualitative interviews and focus groups to gather stakeholder perspectives (children, carers, and professionals).  Findings will be shared with the judiciary, policymakers, practitioners, and lived-experience organisations. Dissemination activities will include the production of policy briefings, evidence briefings, a roundtable event with key stakeholders, inter-agency seminars, a toolkit of research outputs, and recommendations for policy and practice reform.  **Major Duties:**   1. To review relevant existing literature and data sources. 2. Contribute to the in-depth casefile study, including:    * Liaison with court staff    * Design of data collection proforma    * Collection of quantitative and qualitative data from family court casefiles    * Analysis of data, using SPSS/Stata and Nvivo. 3. Contribute to qualitative research, including:    * design of recruitment and data collection materials, including interview/focus group schedules and consent forms    * arranging and conducting qualitative interviews and focus groups, in-person and online with children, families and professionals    * analysis of data using Nvivo. 4. Contribute to project outputs: including interim reports, final report, summary, policy briefings, blogposts, and peer reviewed journal articles. 5. Contribute to dissemination activities, including roundtable events with key policy and practice stakeholders, national and international conferences and seminars. 6. Participate in project team meetings, advisory group meetings and other relevant meetings as identified by the PI/Co-Is. 7. Contribute to the preparation of progress reports and presentations for the advisory group and funders. 8. Maintain confidentiality of information; it will be necessary to comply with the requirements of GDPR and the University Research Ethics Committee. 9. Identify and engage in personal development opportunities to support your role and career development. 10. Contribute to the development and writing of funding applications. 11. You may also be required to carry out any other duties appropriate to the grade of the post, as directed by the Principal Investigator (Dr Linda Cusworth, Lancaster University), or Co-Investigators (Dr Jessica Roy and Dr Jon Symonds, University of Bristol). | |