JOB DESCRIPTION
Senior Research Associate (Grade 7), Centre for Child and Family Justice Research
Vacancy Ref: A3245

Job Title: Senior Research Associate
Present Grade: 7P

Department/College: Centre for Child and Family Justice Research (Sociology/Law)

Directly responsible to: Professor Karen Broadhurst
Supervisory responsibility for: N/A

Other contacts
Internal: Project staff; departmental staff in Sociology and Law; staff across the University linked to the Centre for Child and Family Justice Research; University central support services (Research Support Office, Faculty Finance, HR, Press Office)

External: Research team at Swansea University; SAIL Databank; The Nuffield Foundation; Cafcass, Cafcass Cymru, Welsh Government, Ministry of Justice and other government departments

The Project
The Nuffield Family Justice Observatory (NFJO), established by the Nuffield Foundation, has funded the Family Justice Data Partnership for 4.5 years (2019 – 2023). This partnership, a collaboration between Lancaster and Swansea Universities, was developed to establish a data platform and analytics service for the NFJO and undertake a programme of research. This programme has been developed in close consultation with policy and practice stakeholders in England and Wales, and speaks directly to national concerns about the limited supply and application of empirical evidence within the family justice system. The programme of work capitalises on the combined expertise of family justice researchers located in the Centre for Child and Family Justice Research at Lancaster University and the infrastructure and expertise of the SAIL Databank at Swansea University. In addition, the team pro-actively encourage and support external researchers and analysts to make use of the data platform and analytics service.

We are seeking a senior research associate to support the work of the Family Justice Data Partnership, based within the Centre for Child and Family Justice Research, Lancaster University.

Major Duties:
1. Working with large scale administrative data, including data management, developing linked datasets for analysis that answers important research questions, and the use of SQL and other query languages, in database systems such as DB2.
2. Developing data management approaches and supporting the development and sharing of good practice among other researchers, including contributing to a catalogue of SQL scripts, creating metadata and other relevant documentation.
3. Participation in working with researchers and collaborators in supporting the translation of research questions into policy relevant outputs (e.g. advising on data parameters and data availability, and appropriate analytical methods, and making data available through Research-Ready Data Assets).
4. Supporting team members through the preparation of datasets
5. Undertaking complex and structured data analysis, dealing appropriately with potentially duplicated records, missing or erroneous data, producing statistical output and documentation of the methodology, and contributing to the preparation of publications (including reports, summaries, blogposts, and peer reviewed journal articles).
6. Participating in dissemination activities, including roundtable events with key policy and practice stakeholders, national and international conferences and seminars.
7. Participation in project team meetings, advisory group meetings and other relevant meetings as identified by the project PI/Senior Responsible Officer.
8. Maintaining confidentiality of information; it will be necessary to comply with the requirements of GDPR and the University Research Ethics Committee.
9. Undertaking any necessary training and development.
10. Undertaking any other duties appropriate to the grade of the post, as required by the project PI, Senior Responsible Officer, and Co-Directors of the Centre for Child and Family Justice Research, Lancaster University.