

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Research Associate**

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| **Job Title:** Postdoctoral Research Associate | **Present Grade:** 6P |
| **Department/College:** Sociology | |
| **Directly responsible to:** Dr Jasmine Fledderjohann, Principal Investigator | |
| **Supervisory responsibility for:** N/A | |
| **Other contacts:**  **Internal:**  Library, Departmental Professional Services Team | |
| **External:**  Dr Sukumar Vellakkal (Co-Investigator, BITS Pilani, Goa), Dr. Elisabetta Aurino (Collaborator, University of Barcelona), International Project Advisory Board | |
| Research from high-income countries shows that food insecurity (FI)--a situation in which access to enough nutritious food is sometimes or often problematic--has lifelong repercussions through impaired learning, health, and productivity. This represents a tremendous loss of human capital, with negative implications for a country’s economic development and ability to meet its Sustainable Development Goals.  Compared to high-income countries, far less is known about the consequences of FI in the Global South. Focusing on Ethiopia, India, Peru, and Vietnam, this project will:  1. Describe consequences of FI, focusing on pathways between household FI in childhood and adolescence, acquisition of essential skills (e.g. learning outcomes) and long-term impacts on health and well-being.  2. Document household resilience strategies by examining what factors may mitigate/exacerbate the risk of experiencing FI, including receipt of monetary transfers and utilisation of government social protection programs.  3. Measure intrahousehold inequalities in FI by generating evidence on inequalities in the experience of FI, which will be used to develop a new survey measure for future use.  This is a mixed-methods project which began in October 2020. You and another qualitative researcher will join a team of quantitative and mixed-methods researchers to contribute to data collection in India and to qualitative data analysis.  **Please note:** This post is based at Lancaster University. **Successful candidates not currently resident in the UK must relocate to the UK** (with some financial support available) to take up the post. Travel to India for data collection will also be necessary for this role.  **Major Duties:**   1. Under the direction of Dr Fledderjohann, undertake research (review literature; collect, transcribe, and analyse primary qualitative data; engage in interdisciplinary discussion of research; contribute to collaborative academic outputs; provide intellectual leadership on selected academic outputs) to meet the aims and objectives of Dr. Fledderjohann’s Food Security for Equitable Futures project (learn more here: https://wp.lancs.ac.uk/foodequity/). 2. Liaise and work with external academic staff (as stated above) on aspects related to data analysis, production of academic outputs, meetings, contributions to workshops, impact activities. 3. In consultation with Dr. Fledderjohann, identify opportunities for your professional development (e.g. supported leadership on outputs, formal training courses) and actively engage with identified opportunities to enhance your research skills and CV. 4. Travel to India to assist with data collection and dissemination of findings, liaise with international stakeholders (including policymakers and academics), and contribute to project workshops. 5. Assist in the preparation and submission of ethics application documents for ethics review and approval. 6. Identify new research questions and undertake data analysis to answer these questions in collaboration with project team. 7. Participate in team meetings and connect with researchers within the project, and develop/participate in research networks more broadly. 8. Prepare and deliver presentations, draft policy briefs, and actively participate in writing academic articles of high quality for submission to top social science journals and the Research Excellence Framework (REF). 9. Contribute to impact activities, and identify unforeseen opportunities to increase impact of research findings. 10. Contribute to the national and international reputation of the project. 11. Actively seek out opportunities for funding (such as fellowships), and contribute to drafting any follow-on research proposals that might build from the results of the project once the current funding has ended. 12. Work within the strategic direction of the University as a whole and the University’s code of ethics and practice guidelines. 13. Participate in and contribute more broadly to the research life and work of the Department of Sociology. | |