

Sociological Studies Newsletter: Issue 10 2011/12

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For general enquiries, please call at the Enquiry Desk in Elmfield (open 09:30 - 14:30 daily). Please also remember to check noticeboards and general pages on MOLE frequently. You can find the latest copy of your handbook at www.shef.ac.uk/socstudies/current/handbooks.html.

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- 1) Staff Student FREE Christmas Social

Don't forget the staff-student social on Tuesday 13th December at Vodka Revs Baby Bar, from 8pm onwards.

You get FREE food and a glass of champagne - there will also be some complimentary wine - all other drinks can be bought with our society vodka revs card for reduced prices too!!

It is FREE for staff and members of the society and a small charge of £2 for any non members. There will be charity buckets for donations to the Hallamshire Haematology Unit on the night too. Also there will be a fun quiz! Hope everyone can make it!

Staff who want to come should contact Clare by email, at ega09cem@shef.ac.uk.

- 2) Volunteer opportunity at VSO

VSO is the world's leading independent international development organisation that works through volunteers to fight poverty in developing countries. VSO's high-impact approach involves bringing people together to share skills, build capabilities, promote international understanding and action, and change lives to make the world a fairer place for all. Currently they have one vacancy for a

field researcher to work in China alongside VSO's partner the Institute for Development Studies to conduct research on the impact of volunteering on poverty.

Valuing Volunteering is a three-year, intensive and comparative research project that asks the broad question: 'How does volunteering affect poverty?' The focus of the research narrows down this umbrella question and is: To interrogate theories of change at local and strategic levels about the relationship between volunteering and poverty.

You will have a degree in development or social research. You will have excellent group facilitation skills and report writing skills. You will have experience of working at multiple levels (from government to local community) and an excellent command of participatory, qualitative research methods. You will need to be able to work in a foreign language environment, getting information through translation. You will have a thorough understanding of volunteering and have well developed written and oral communication skills. Your excellent people skills will make you a culturally and socially sensitive person, who is able to listen to different points of view and process information from a variety of stakeholder groups. Ideally you will also have experience of quantitative research methods and the ability to use and analyse statistical tools. Previous volunteer management experience would be an advantage.

You'll be based in Beijing, China's capital city. VSO will ask you to commit to 12 - 24 months to make a sustainable contribution to our development goals. In return, we'll give you comprehensive financial, personal and professional support. We'll provide you with extensive training before your placement, and our financial package includes a local salary, return flights, accommodation, insurance and more. When you return to your home country, we'll support you to resettle.

For more information or to apply please contact Violeta Vajda at VSO by phone [+44 20 8780 7318](tel:+442087807318) or by email Violeta.Vajda@vso.org.uk.

3) New publications

Beverley Jowett and Carolyn Spray have written "Social Work Practice with Children and Families", which was published in November by SAGE Publications Ltd. It explores what enables good and effective practice in local authority field social work delivered to children, young people and their families.

"The challenge of creating 'alternative' images of ageing: Lessons

from a project with older women", co-authored by Lorna Warren and Naomi Richards from the Department of Sociological Studies, had been published by the Journal of Ageing Studies. You can read it at www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0890406511000624.

4) Working with street children in Bolivia

Annie Syrett - an ex-Sheffield student and now coordinator of Friends of Alalay (Santa Cruz, Bolivia) - will be giving a seminar on 13th December about her experiences of working with street children in Bolivia. The seminar runs from 12.30-13.30 in the ICOSS Boardroom (you may need to press the buzzer to get into the building).

5) Careers Service

The Careers Service is now handling the administration for the Sheffield Internship Scheme, a newly launched project based internship scheme for undergraduate students. If you are an undergraduate student and are interested in enhancing your employability, then we may wish to find out more.

Under this project, which is backed by funding from Sheffield City Council, 50 bursary funded internships with companies and organisations in Sheffield are to be arranged. The scheme, which will see internships commencing over the next two months, will offer you the opportunity to work with a local organisation on a project based internship, earning a bursary of £620. You will have the opportunity to learn new and valuable skills which will in turn enhance your CV for future employment. All internships will take place over 100 hours in total – a maximum of 15 hours per week – and must be completed by 31st March 2012.

Available internships are being advertised now via myVacancies, under part-time/casual work. For further details of the scheme, go to www.sheffield.ac.uk/careers/students/jobs/intern.

For full details of all Careers Service events over the next week, visit our website: www.shf.ac.uk/careers/events.