

Sociological Studies Newsletter: Issue 11 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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- 2) Why were there riots over the summer?
- 3) New publications
- 4) ESRC PhD Studentship Cardiff University

- 1) Christmas and New Year holidays

The department will close for the holidays on Friday 23rd December, and will re-open on Tuesday 3rd January. The Elmfield Building will also close during this period. Some university facilities, such as the Information Commons, will remain open throughout the festive period. Best wishes to all for the holidays.

- 2) Why were there riots over the summer?

Rebecca Novell, a student on the MA in Social Work, has been invited to be part of The Guardian panel in a live online debate this Friday. You can read her recent blog on The Guardian website at www.guardian.co.uk/social-care-network/social-life-blog/2011/nov/18/riots-happened-listen-young-people.

- 3) New publications

An article by Joe Smeeton, "Research - Raising the Bar? Evaluation of the Social Pedagogy Pilot in Residential Children's Homes", has been published in Community Care. You can read the article online at www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/01/12/2011/117844/research-findings-on-social-pedagogy.htm.

Joe will be leaving the department at the end of this year, and sends

his best wishes to all students and staff.

4) ESRC PhD Studentship Cardiff University

Evaluating the Foundation Phase

Applications are being sought for a prestigious (1+3 or +3) full time PhD Studentship, to be based in the Cardiff School of Social Sciences at Cardiff University, to begin in October 2012.

The Foundation Phase (FP) is one of the Welsh Assembly Government's most exciting policies, marking a radical departure from the more assessment-driven competency-based approaches to early childhood education that have been adopted elsewhere. The Wales Institute for Social and Economic Research Methods and Data (WISERD) and Cardiff University School of Social Sciences is undertaking a three-year evaluation of the Foundation Phase to: (a) see how well the FP is being implemented and highlight ways in which improvement can be made (the process evaluation); (b) what impact the FP has had to date (the outcome evaluation); (c) to assess the value for money of the FP (the economic evaluation); and (d) to put in place an evaluation framework for the future tracking of outputs and outcomes of the FP (the evaluation framework). This studentship will be linked to this evaluation and will benefit from being part of the evaluation research team and our links with the evaluation's sponsor, the Welsh Government.

Eligibility: Candidates should have an excellent academic background in the social sciences, holding a 1st or upper 2nd class degree; applications from those also holding a Masters degree (preferably an ESRC recognised Masters or an equivalent background in research training) will be considered for a +3 award. Full UK/EU tuition fees paid, approx. £13,590 p.a. living stipend and £750 p.a. research and training allowance.

For further information about the project and how to apply please contact Vicky Parkin at parkinva@cardiff.ac.uk or telephone (029) 20 870855. Closing date: February 10th.