

PhD Studentship: Transitions in the technologies and practices of office work: Manchester's administrative industries (1960-2017)

Deadline: 12th **February 2018**

This is a call for applications for a three year, fully funded, ESRC [North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership](#) (NWSSDTP) CASE PhD studentship the Sociology department at Lancaster University, in collaboration with Manchester Museum of Science and Industry, starting in October 2018.

The research

This PhD investigates the relation between innovations in office technology - from filing cabinets and fax machines through to hard drives and email – and changing competencies and experiences of office work. The research will make use of the Museum of Science and Industry's (MSI) collection of office-related objects, and of secondary sources together with interviews and focus groups to address the following research questions.

- How have innovations in office technology affected the nature and location of office work and vice versa?
- How have the skills, competencies and experiences of office work changed (and stayed the same) from one generation to the next?
- How might the Museum of Science and Industry represent and conceptualise transformations in the technologies *and* practices of office life?

In tackling these questions, and in showing what past innovations in office work might reveal about the future, the PhD student will bring together concepts and approaches from science and technology studies, material culture and the sociology of everyday practice, also developing a novel integration of methods of material culture/object analysis, interviews, focus groups and archival research.

See: <http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/elizabeth-shove/research-students/> for full details.

The supervisors

[Professor Elizabeth Shove](#) (Department of Sociology, Lancaster University), Dr Nicola Spurling (Department of Sociology, Lancaster University) and Dr Alice Cliff (Manchester Museum of Science and Industry)

This NWSSDTP CASE Studentship includes:

- Payment of academic fees (at the standard RCUK rate);
- A Maintenance Stipend (£14,553 in 2017, exact rate for 2018 subject to confirmation from the RCUK);
- Access to a Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) for reimbursement of research-related expenses including – but not limited to – conference attendance, training courses and UK fieldwork;
- Opportunities to apply for additional funding towards Overseas Institutional Visits and Internships;

- Access to Training and Professional Development delivered by the MSI
- Office space and a workstation at MSI within the Curatorial & Archives team offices, and access to data and resources of the team, such as a Museum email address, security pass, and invitations to staff meetings.
- Access to a range of training and development provided by the Sociology Department, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Lancaster University, and the NWSSDTC.

Person Specification:

- Candidates must have qualifications of the standard of Bachelor's degree at first or upper second class level, and must also have a suitable Master's degree or equivalent (or will have completed a Master's degree by the starting date October 2018) in social research/social science.
- Candidates will need to demonstrate that they have received rigorous training in the theoretical, philosophical, and methodological aspects of both qualitative and quantitative research.
- Candidates must satisfy the [ESRC's academic and residential eligibility requirements](#);
- Candidates will preferably have a background and academic interest in sociology; science and technology studies; material culture or social theory. Knowledge of relevant academic debates will be a significant advantage.

Application Information:

Please send enquiries about the vacancy and applications by email to Elizabeth Shove (e.shove@lancaster.ac.uk)

Applications should include:

- A full CV, including two named referees (one of whom should be your most recent academic tutor/supervisor);
- A copy of Bachelor's degree and Master's degree transcript (or copy of equivalent qualifications);
- A letter of application (not exceeding two pages of A4) outlining your suitability for a PhD and explaining how you would approach the research;
- An example of postgraduate level written work (e.g. a research article, chapter, or essay).

Deadline for applications is **12th February 2018**.

We will inform candidates whether we will offer them an interview on the **14th February 2018**.

Interviews will take place in Lancaster on the morning of **21st February 2018**.

Candidates invited for an interview will be eligible to claim reasonable UK travel expenses to attend.

The successful applicant will be required to submit a full application to study for a PhD in the Department of Sociology at Lancaster University and will need to be offered a place on the programme.

A full description of the project can be found here:

<http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/elizabeth-shove/research-students/>