



**CITY UNIVERSITY
LONDON**

Research Fellow

Department Of Sociology
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

<http://www.city.ac.uk/hr>

October 2011

Role Profile

Post:	Research Fellow
Department:	Centre for Comparative Social Surveys, Dept of Sociology
School:	Social Sciences
Grade:	6
Tenure:	2 Years (with the expectation of future funding for the post beyond that time)
Responsible to:	Deputy Director

Centre for Comparative Social Surveys

The Centre for Comparative Social Surveys in the School of Social Sciences is responsible for the design and coordination of the 34-nation European Social Survey (ESS). The Director of the Centre, Professor Roger Jowell, is the Co-Founder and Principal Investigator of the ESS, but the London office has a present complement of a further seven people – a Deputy Director, a Senior Research Fellow, a Research Manager, two Research Fellows, a Research Assistant and an administrator. Together with a coordinating team comprising colleagues from six other countries, they are collectively responsible for the development and implementation of further rounds of the European Social Survey and the implementation of its ‘infrastructure’ programme. Five rounds of the survey have now been completed, the data from which are all publicly available (see www.europeansocialsurvey.org). Fieldwork for the sixth round will start in September 2012.

The role of the ESS is to measure, monitor and interpret changing social attitudes in Europe – both within and between countries - and to develop and consolidate better methods of cross-national research. It is widely seen as *the* authoritative source of material for the analysis and understanding of changing social values across Europe, underlined by its award in 2005 of the Descartes Prize “for excellence in collaborative scientific research”, the first social science project ever to achieve this. In conjunction with colleagues in four other major European infrastructures, it has since gone on to win a three-year infrastructure grant from the EU, the main purpose of which is to address longer-term methodological issues in comparative research.

Following the ESS’s selection as one of only three European social science projects eligible to be funded as a long-term European Research Infrastructure, the ESS will soon be applying for formal recognition of European Research Infrastructure status. This will involve a multinational agreement among member nations to ensure a secure basis for the future of the ESS.

A Research Fellow post is now to be filled. The postholder will work on a variety of tasks within the Centre including contributing towards the overall design and coordination of the ESS. In particular, he or she will play a leading role in the ESS methodological programmes on mixed modes of data collection, and will spearhead work on the new ESS innovation sample created to test possible new question topics for the ESS core questionnaire. In addition the postholder will be expected to make contributions towards forthcoming grant proposals, undertake advanced data analysis and contribute to the publication programme via reports and articles. He or she will also contribute to questionnaire design and other ESS tasks as appropriate.

The postholder will have significant experience of survey design and methodology and will be proficient in advanced statistical analysis. This will include a working knowledge of advanced techniques such as structural equation modelling or latent class analysis.

The post is a full-time research position and is available from 1st December 2011. It is fixed term for 24 months initially but it is hoped that future funding will allow the post to continue.

The postholder may, subject to negotiation and the needs of the Centre and School of Social Sciences, have some limited opportunities for teaching survey methods and for researching and writing about his or her specific areas of interest.

The duties of the post

The successful candidate will have an excellent knowledge of social survey data collection, design and analysis. Experience of cross-national survey measurement is ideal but not essential.

The duties of the post (may) include:

- A leading role in the ESS methodology programmes
- Participation in the detailed analysis and interpretation of ESS data and methods
- Providing statistical support to other researchers in CCSS
- Assisting in questionnaire design and pre-testing
- Co-writing grant applications
- Co-writing articles and conference papers
- General administrative and reporting duties as part of the research management process
- Travel to meetings and conferences, primarily within Europe

The postholder will be line-managed by the Deputy Director of the Centre, Rory Fitzgerald.

In addition

- The postholder must at all times carry out his/her responsibilities with due regard to the University's Equal Opportunities Statement.
- The postholder must accept responsibility for ensuring that the policies and procedures relating to Health and Safety in the workplace are adhered to at all times.
- The postholder must respect the confidentiality of data stored electronically and by other means in line with the Data Protection Act.
- The postholder must carry out his/her responsibilities with due regard to the non-smoking environment of the University.

Sustainable Development

The University is committed to a policy of best practice to assist in building a sustainable way of life by taking a positive, solutions-orientated approach. All post holders are encouraged to contribute through their roles to improving the environment, for the University and the wider community. This is promoted via The Forum for the Future – Higher Education Project. Details of policy, information and the staff development supporting the policy on the environment will be promoted through the website and various University communication channels.

The above list is not exclusive or exhaustive and the post holder will be required to undertake such duties as may reasonably be expected within the scope and grading of the post. All members of staff are required to be professional, co-operative and flexible in line with the needs of the post, Department, School and the University. Job descriptions should be regularly reviewed and at least prior to the annual appraisal, if applicable, or on a regular basis to ensure they are an accurate representation of the post.

Candidate Specification

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Unless otherwise stated, the following attributes are **ESSENTIAL**:

Research

- experience of survey design, methods pre-testing and survey management (essential) ideally with large scale and / or comparative surveys
- ability to analyse complex data sets and clearly convey the results to a range of audiences
- experience of applying advanced statistical analysis to survey data
- experience of giving papers at conferences/workshops
- publications covering survey methods

Qualifications

- Educated to at least masters level equivalent in a relevant social science discipline

IT skills

- ability to use SPSS (or equivalent) and other appropriate software packages (e.g. AMOS, Mplus)

Communication and interpersonal Skills

- ability to speak and write clearly and persuasively in English
- ability to speak and write clearly and persuasively in another European language (desirable)
- ability and willingness to work effectively with a team

Salary and Conditions of Service

The salient features of Conditions for Academic staff are as follows:

- The salary will be in the range of £33,733 to £39,107. This is on Grade 6 of the salary scales for Academic staff.
- Annual Leave is 30 days, plus 8 statutory and 4 additional days during the Christmas holiday period.
- You will have the option to join the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS).
- This post is fixed term for 24 months.
- All offers of appointment are subject to the University receiving satisfactory references and medical clearance.
- All posts at City University are subject to reasonable adjustment under the Equalities Act (2010).
- All appointments at City University are subject to a probationary period.

Applications

When preparing your application, you should carefully address the post details enclosed and in particular ALL the qualities outlined in the Person Specification. Please include examples where appropriate.

Please note that CVs will NOT be accepted.

- ♦ **All applications must be received by 27th October 2011.**
- ♦ **It is proposed to hold interviews and a short test on 8th November 2011.**

Further Information

We operate a no smoking policy.

The University offers an excellent pension scheme, generous leave allowance, season ticket loan, a good working environment, and access to our student fitness and social facilities.

If you would be moving to the UK, please visit **www.internationalstaff.ac.uk**. This one-stop shop of information is designed to assist and support your move to live in the UK and work at a UK University and includes information specific to City University London.

City University confirms its commitment to equal opportunities in all its activities. It is intended that no job applicant or employee will receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of political belief, sex, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or social class. Selection and promotion criteria will be kept under review to ensure that individuals are treated on the basis of the job requirements and on their relevant personal merits, and are not disadvantaged by conditions or requirements, which cannot be shown to be justifiable.

If you have a disability and are interested in this post, your application is welcomed. For an informal discussion you may wish to contact the Recruitment Team on:

Telephone: 020 7040 3085
E-mail: recruit@city.ac.uk

**CITY UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE SOCIAL SURVEYS

Staff Profiles

Roger Jowell is a Research Professor at City University London and is the Founder Director of its Centre for Comparative Social Surveys. Prior to that he was the Director of the National Centre for Social Research, which he started in 1969 and helped build into Britain's largest social research institute. He is an elected member of the International Statistical Institute, an Academician of the Academy for Social Sciences and was awarded a knighthood in 2008 for 'services to social science'. He is a recent vice-president of the UK's Royal Statistical Society and is currently Deputy Chair of the UK Statistical Authority. He founded and directed the British Social Attitudes survey from 1983 to 2001 and co-directed the British Election Studies from 1983 to 2000. He was the founding chair of the International Social Survey Programme from 1984 to 1989 and is the founding coordinator of the European Social Survey, having been instrumental in crafting its design and establishing its funding base. His writing has focused primarily on social and political values, social change, voting behaviour and survey methods. His publications include a textbook on survey research, articles and chapters on aspects of social measurement, 20 edited books on social attitudes and four co-authored books on British electoral behaviour.

Rory Fitzgerald has been a Senior Research Fellow at City University London since 2004 and became Deputy Director of its Centre for Comparative Social Surveys in 2007. He plays a lead role in the design, management and overall coordination of the European Social Survey (ESS) and a senior member of its Central Coordinating Team (CCT). His key area of expertise is cross-national survey methodology with a focus on questionnaire design, pre-testing and non response issues. He is also playing a key role in the ESS preparatory phase designed to transform the ESS into a long term sustained pan European infrastructure.

Prior to joining City, Rory was a Research Director at the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), having previously worked at Gallup specialising in political opinion polling. He is a member of the International Workshop on Comparative Survey Design and Implementation as well as the European Survey Research Association.

Eric Harrison joined CCSS in October 2006 and is a Senior Research Fellow responsible for a range of projects within the ESS Infrastructure. Previously he was Senior Research Officer in the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex where he was assistant academic convenor of a project to develop a European Socio-economic Classification (ESeC). Prior to that he read for a doctorate at Nuffield College, Oxford. His research was concerned with the many forms of self-employment in Britain and their different experiences in relation to job quality, job satisfaction, labour market insecurity and socio-political attitudes. He has taught quantitative data analysis at the Universities of Oxford and Essex and also spent eight years teaching sociology at the University of Plymouth. Eric is the Treasurer of the British Sociological Association.

Lorna Ryan is Research Manager of the FP7 supported ESS Infrastructure Preparatory Phase Project and joined the CCSS in May 2008. She has been involved in EU programmes (ESF, Framework 5, 6) as Project Coordinator and Manager, Senior Researcher and Gender Expert since the mid-1990s. Her PhD (Sociology, University of Kent at Canterbury) was awarded in 1996 and she has researched, lectured and published in a range of fields including the social aspects of HIV/AIDS, social exclusion and labour market participation, equality, research methodology and research ethics. Current research interests include the development of EU research policy and gender mainstreaming. She is a Committee member of UACES – the University Association for Contemporary European Studies and a full member of the City University Senate Ethics Committee.

Sally Widdop joined the Centre for Comparative Social Surveys at City University in August 2006 as a Research Assistant on the European Social Survey and became a Research Fellow in 2011. In addition to contributing towards the design and coordination of each round of the ESS, Sally also plays a leading role in ESS outreach activities. She has a BA Honours degree in Sociology from the University of Wales, Bangor and an MSc in Social Research Methods from the University of Surrey. She has previously worked as a Researcher for Gingerbread where she designed, fielded and wrote up the results of a telephone survey and has also conducted fieldwork for a Home Office funded project on Licensed Premises.

Lizzy Gatrell has been working in the Centre for Comparative Social Surveys at City since May 2011 as a Researcher on the European Social Survey. She is closely involved in the design and coordination of the European Social Survey (ESS) including helping to design new questions for the survey, pre-testing questions and monitoring fieldwork in a number of countries. Lizzy has a BA Honours degree in Social Psychology from the University of Sussex, and an MSc in Social Research Methods from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Mary Keane is the Senior Administrator of the European Social Survey, handling the coordination of meetings and conferences as well as their finances, and the research administration of the whole project. She also ensures the smooth operation of CCSS and compliance with City University procedures. In addition Mary plays a leading role in the coordination of ESS institutions and tasks to ensure that this 34-nation project operates smoothly and efficiently.

Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences

The Centre is located within the Sociology Department, which is a leading centre for teaching and research. The Department is committed to a global research agenda and its mission is to provide the highest quality teaching at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral levels. The research of the Department is organised and advanced through research seminars, workshops, conferences and funded research. The Department also has a number of well-established undergraduate and Masters programmes and around 30 PhD students.