



Economic  
and Social  
Research Council



***Police interviews and complainant meta-memory processes***  
**ESRC DTP Collaborative Studentship**

***University of Birmingham and Saint Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre***

The Midlands Graduate School is an accredited Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP). One of 14 such partnerships in the UK, the Midlands Graduate School is a collaboration between the University of Warwick, Aston University, University of Birmingham, University of Leicester, Loughborough University and the University of Nottingham.

*University of Birmingham* as part of Midlands Graduate School is now inviting applications for an ESRC Doctoral Studentship in association with our collaborative partner—*Saint Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Manchester*—to commence in October 2021.

**This PhD project pioneers new research on how victims recall memories about sexual offences during police interviews. The findings will inform interview procedures that enable the police to gather accurate and reliable accounts, and that psychologically support victims during the interview to prevent re-traumatisation.**

Nearly 500,000 adults every year are sexually assaulted in the UK. If the victim reports the offence to the police, they will recollect the incident multiple times to practitioners, including forensic medical examiners, and the police. The accuracy of the recollection is frequently challenged throughout the criminal justice process, an experience many liken to a 'second' rape (e.g. Antaki et al., 2015; Lees, 1993).

The student will conduct research in collaboration with colleagues at Saint Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre, and the School of Psychology at the University of Birmingham (UoB) to develop psychological theory about meta-memory processes during police interviews, and gain an understanding of how legal practitioners evaluate the accuracy and reliability of complainant statements. The student will conduct field research at Saint Mary's SARC, and experiments (see Flowe et al., 2007, 2019) in the Applied Memory Laboratory ([www.appliedmemorylab.co.uk](http://www.appliedmemorylab.co.uk)).

The student will be based at UoB, and visit Saint Mary's SARC, virtually and in person, to undertake further training and research. Saint Mary's is the flagship SARC in the UK (<https://www.stmaryscentre.org/professionals/research>). The student will be co-supervised by Drs Heather Flowe and Melissa Colloff, from UoB, and Dr Rabiya Majeed-Ariss, from Saint Mary's SARC, and also have exciting opportunity to visit Professor Ronald Fisher's laboratory at Florida International University.

**Application Process**

To be considered for this PhD, please complete the Collaborative Studentship application form [available online here](#) along with a cover letter and your CV, and email this to [pg-psychology-admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:pg-psychology-admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk). Shortlisted applicants will also be required to provide two references.

**Application deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2021**

### **Midlands Graduate School ESRC DTP**

Our ESRC studentships cover fees at the home rate, a maintenance stipend, and extensive support for research training, as well as research activity support grants. Support is available to both home and international applicants. For further details, visit: [www.mgsdtp.ac.uk/studentships/eligibility/](http://www.mgsdtp.ac.uk/studentships/eligibility/).

Informal enquiries about the research or the School of Psychology at the University of Birmingham prior to application can be directed to Heather Flowe, PhD by emailing [h.flowe@bham.ac.uk](mailto:h.flowe@bham.ac.uk).