



The 2008 UK financial crisis: policy, regulatory and state capture? ESRC DTP Collaborative Studentship

University of Nottingham and Transparency International UK

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The University of Nottingham as part of Midlands Graduate School is now inviting applications for an ESRC Doctoral Studentship in association with our collaborative partner Transparency International UK to commence in October 2018.

Just over a decade ago the UK banking system was on the brink of collapse. Profligate lending and insufficient financial controls had left banks dangerously vulnerable to market volatility. When the US sub-prime mortgage crisis hit, intervention from the UK taxpayer – totalling hundreds of billions of pounds – was needed to prevent economic catastrophe.

In searching for an explanation, most subsequent inquiries and reports have focussed on proximate factors: light-touch regulation, irresponsible lending and insufficient capital reserves. Little attention, however, has been given to why such behaviour was permitted in the first place. This research studentship will critically examine the extent to which the ‘capture’ of policy, regulatory and state institutions and processes by the banking sector help account for the UK’s financial crisis and subsequent responses. The research may include, but is not limited to:

- analysis of the ‘revolving door’ between public and private bodies relevant to the crisis;
- network analysis of key decision-makers and actors from both the public and private sector, including political party donors; and
- analysis of how banking policy and legislation was developed in the lead-up to 2008 (including industry lobbying around government consultations and Parliamentary inquiries, and the ideas being promoted by influential think-tanks).

We are seeking a committed individual to deploy cutting-edge research methodologies. This project would suit someone with a background in economics, politics, political economy and/or network and data analysis. A knowledge or interest in corruption studies would also be an advantage.

Application Process

To be considered for this PhD, please complete the Collaborative Studentship application form [available online here](#) and along with two references email this to Graeme Docherty (graeme.docherty@nottingham.ac.uk).

Application deadline: Friday, 16 March 2018

Midlands Graduate School ESRC DTP

Our ESRC studentships cover fees and maintenance stipend and extensive support for research training, as well as research activity support grants. Support is available only to successful applicants who fulfil eligibility criteria. To check your eligibility, visit: www.mgsdtp.ac.uk/studentships/eligibility/.

Informal enquiries about the research or School of Politics and International Relations prior to application can be directed to paul.heywood@nottingham.ac.uk.