

Organising for Positive Social Change: The Case of Punch Records

ESRC DTP Collaborative Studentship

Aston University, Leicester University and Punch Records (Birmingham)

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.

Aston University and Leicester University, as part of Midlands Graduate School, are now inviting applications for an ESRC Doctoral Studentship in association with our collaborative partner Punch Records (Birmingham) to commence in October 2020.

The collaborative studentship is for an action research study with two leading research Centres: the Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship (CREME), based at Aston University; and CAMEo Research Institute for Cultural and Media Economies at Leicester University. The two Centres will collaborate with Punch Records, an innovative music promotion company in Birmingham. The studentship, which will be based at Aston University, adopts an action research approach to study how a small, market based organisation (Punch Records) promotes positive social change (PSC).

The main research questions are:

1. How can small market-based organisations promote PSC?
2. What strategies are used to pursue PSC and how can they be supported?
3. How are PSC projects experienced by internal and external stakeholders?

The study will be interventionist in nature and will be undertaken in collaboration with Punch Records. The student will work closely with Punch Records as well as the supervisory team at CRÈME and CAMEo. An interdisciplinary approach to action research will be employed because of its capacity to produce sound explanations of social reality, and its practical utility in helping the Collaborating Organisation to promote meaningful change. The intervention will support Punch Records to promote PSC in Birmingham, particularly amongst diverse communities engaged in the creative sector.

Entry Requirements

An undergraduate degree in a social sciences or related discipline with at least 2:1 is essential. A Masters degree with a high grade (65% or above) is desirable for a 1+3 award and essential for a +3 award. Applicants who do not hold a Masters with 65% or above would be required to undertake the MSc Social Science Research and to achieve a result of 65% or more in order to progress to the PhD programme and the +3 award.

Application Process

To be considered for this PhD, please complete the Collaborative Studentship application form available online: https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/mgsdtp/collaborativeandjoint/#collaborative and email this along with a copy of your Undergraduate and Masters transcripts, a current CV and two references to: Andrew Maile a.maile@aston.ac.uk.

Application deadline: Monday 2 March 2020

Interview Date: w/c 9 March 2020

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 the Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship prior to application can be directed to: Professor Monder Ram

m.ram1@aston.ac.uk or the CREME Centre Manager, Andrew Maile a.maile@aston.ac.uk