



Publishing for social change: Supporting emerging writing on social work and youth work in India

Call for participants: Writing workshops and mentoring programme 2021

We are delighted to open this call to participants for a writing workshop and mentoring programme for early-career researchers from Scheduled Castes in India across the disciplines of Social Work and Youth Work. This is being organised through a partnership between The Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) and King's College London (KCL); and draws together support from experienced academics in social work and youth work from India and across the globe (such as the UK, Hong Kong and Australia).

Programme details

'Publishing for Social Change' is a four-day workshop in Chennai, India; backed up by a ten month structured mentoring programme, for early career researchers (ECRs) in India who work on issues in or related to social work and youth work. Priority will be given to researchers from the Scheduled Castes (SC) in India. This workshop will celebrate and amplify the research of participants by supporting writing and publication in these important yet often marginalised fields, both in high impact international peer reviewed journals, and in other high quality international publications such as practitioner publications and open online journals. This workshop and mentoring programme aims to provide ECRs with insider knowledge and strategies for publishing in quality peer reviewed journals, and to build capacity amongst Indian academics to develop existing and new networks and systems to support ECRs to publish their work.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the programme you need to meet all of the aspects of the following criteria:

- *Early career researcher* (this includes PhD students in their final year, post-doctoral candidates and those who have recently completed their PhD or have yet to publish in International peer reviewed journals)
- *Those from Scheduled Castes (SC)*
- *Those whose research is related to social work, youth work and social development in India or across the world* (this includes a broad understanding of social work/youth work/social development)



- *Those who have research to write up for International peer-reviewed journals (ideally this requires your research to be completed and you have capacity to write at least one journal article in the coming year)*

We have approximately 20 spaces available for participants. Those whose work appears to be most ready and conducive for peer reviewed publication will be prioritised if we have more than 20 eligible applicants.

Mentoring programme

The writing workshop will be underpinned by a structured mentoring programme. Each successful applicant will be allocated a mentor from a team of experienced academics who have published in international journals on relevant themes.

Mentors will provide advice, feedback and opportunities for critical reflection through four scheduled contact points:

- 1) *Pre-workshop*: Successful applicants will receive written feedback from their mentor on an extended abstract and annotated outline for a paper, followed by an online meeting to identify strengths and weakness, and to set writing goals.
- 2) *During the workshop*: Meeting with mentors (in person or online) to reflect on learning from the workshops, further discuss their proposed paper, and develop their writing plan and timetable.
- 3) *Feedback on first draft*: Review and provide extensive feedback on first full draft of paper (in writing, followed up with online meeting).
- 4) *Feedback on final draft*: Review and provide extensive feedback on final draft of paper (in writing, followed up with online meeting).

The exact dates of each meeting and the plan of work you develop will be decided between yourself and your mentor. However, your mentor may not be able to offer you extensive feedback on drafts if these are sent to them outside the period of the programme (i.e. February – November 2021).

Peer to peer support

Peer to peer support sessions will be set up by Dr S Lalitha and two colleagues (Dr. S Kumaravel and Dr. Avinu Veronica Richa) to encourage informal discussion and reflection on the writing process. A network will also be set up between all participants and mentors for sharing resources, ideas, tips, reflections and progress. This may be facilitated through Whatsapp groups, group emails or Google Classroom.

Additional support

Some academic English support and proof-reading for papers that are ready for submission to a peer reviewed international journal will be available through RGNIYD if needed.



Writing workshop

We are planning to hold a 4-day writing workshop at Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) in Chennai, India, during the second half of 2021. Due to the Coronavirus global pandemic and widespread travel restrictions, we are currently unable to establish a date. However, we will keep you updated and informed.

The workshop programme will include:

- *Knowledge and skills needed to write for international academic journals*, such as: Developing a publishing agenda; Writing for publication; Collaborative writing; Assuring and communicating rigour; Structuring your article; Top tips from journal editors; Developing an argument; Writing for a special issue; Communicating methodology; and Maximising impact. Each session will include a summative hand-out, a participatory discussion, an exercise and follow up reading and resources. Some sessions will require prior reading or tasks.
- *Activities and debates to develop networks and stimulate mutual learning amongst participants*: Publishing in a post-colonial context; 'Research speed dating'; Building confidence; Overcoming writing blocks; Giving and receiving feedback; Where next?
- *Technical writing support*: Writing styles; Concise writing; Academic English; Proofreading and formatting; Referencing
- Building research careers: Research grant writing; Career planning; Peer reviewing
- *Technological support*: Indexing and citations; referencing software; navigating university repositories; setting up journal alerts; developing a web research profile (e.g. 'ResearchGate')

Team

This writing workshop and mentoring programme are led by a multi-disciplinary and multi-national team of academics, including:

Dr Aisha Hutchinson, Lecturer in Social Sciences, King's College London –

aisha.hutchinson@kcl.ac.uk

Dr Lalitha Subramanian, Assistant Professor, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) - drjalitha.rgnyd@gmail.com

Dr Tania de St Croix, Lecturer in the Sociology of Youth and Childhood, King's College London – tania.de_st_croix@kcl.ac.uk

Dr Mili, Postdoctoral Fellow in Education, King's College London – mili.mili@kcl.ac.uk

Dr Lucy Jordan, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work and Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong - Jordanlp@hku.hk

Prof Patrick O'Leary, Professor of Social Work, School of Human Services and Social Work, Griffith University - p.oleary@griffith.edu.au



We also have a team of additional mentors available, all of whom have significant international expertise in Social Work and Youth Work from India, the UK and Hong Kong.

Journal support

The editors of two journals will contribute to the sessions outlined above, Prof Patrick O'Leary (Co-Chief Editor of International Social Work) and Dr Tania de St Croix (Editor of Youth and Policy).

International Social Work is the official journal of the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) and the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW). SAGE publishes the journal bimonthly and it has the largest subscription amongst all social work journals worldwide. It is a scholarly refereed journal designed to extend knowledge and promote international exchange in the fields of social work, social welfare, and community development. A commitment of the journal is to encourage scholars and practitioners from nations with proportionally lower rates of authorship (such as India) to successfully contribute to the journal. **The editors will offer an expedited review to workshop participants who submit to the journal, and will award one accepted article open access rights.** Dr Hutchinson (PI) and Dr Jordan (Co-I) are both Associate Editors of the journal.

Youth and Policy is an online open access journal for the critical discussion of youth policy and youth work theory and practice. Based in the UK, it also publishes international research and actively seeks submissions from scholars from under-represented groups. The journal aims to highlight and critically debate contemporary issues relevant to young people in society, with particular reference to youth and community work and related professional interventions; stimulate dialogue between policy-makers, academics and practitioners; and encourage high-quality scholarly contributions to debates around young people's issues. **The editors will offer an expedited review to workshop participants who submit to the journal, and all accepted publications will actively promoted through social media.**

Costs

All the costs involved in your participation will be covered through funding from the British Academy for this programme (including your attendance at the writing workshop). We have funding for approximately 20 participants.

Timeline

January 2021: Applications for participation due by **Monday 11th January 2021**
Applicants will be informed of outcome of the application by Friday 29th January 2021

February 2021: Mentors allocated to participants



Initial resources circulated
First meeting between mentor and mentee agreed
First peer to peer support group organised
Network organised to share resources and progress

March 2021 –
June 2021

Mentees will meet with mentors and undertake agreed tasks/activities within the agreed timetable
Further peer to peer support groups organised

July 2021 –
November 2021

Writing workshop scheduled
Mentors and mentees continue to collaborate
Further peer to peer support groups organised
Submission of paper to a peer reviewed international journal

If you have any questions please contact Dr Lalitha Subramanian (dr_lalitha.rgnyd@gmail.com) and Dr Aisha Hutchinson (aisha.hutchinson@kcl.ac.uk)



Application form (due 11th January 2021)

Name:

Current occupation, position, and institution:

Nationality:

Age:

Gender:

Marital Status:

Member of scheduled Caste: yes/no

Contact details (address and email):

Educational history

Please give details of your educational history including details of your PhD (where/when/what) (Max 300 words)



Summary of your research

Please give a summary of your current and past research, and how it relates to social work/youth work/social development (Max 300 words)

Indication of writing plans

Please briefly describe the papers you would like to write during this programme including any potential target journals (Max 300 words)



Extended abstract

Please submit an extended abstract of 500 words of the paper that you intend to develop for publication in a peer-reviewed international journal (which your mentor will provide feedback on)

Annotated outline for a paper

Please submit an annotated outline of no more than 500 words of the paper that you intend to develop for publication in a peer-reviewed international journal (which your mentor will provide feedback on)



**Please submit this application with a reference letter from your research supervisor/Head of the Department/Head of the Institution to Dr Lalitha Subramanian,
drlalitha.rgnyd@gmail.com and Dr Aisha Hutchinson
aisha.hutchinson@kcl.ac.uk by 11th January 2021**