

## PhD Studentship

**Full Time, 3 year Home/EU funding (with option to extend) available**

**Start April 2020**

<b>Job Reference:</b>	N/A
<b>Department:</b>	Sociology
<b>Grade/ Salary:</b>	A tax-free stipend matching the UK's Research Councils rate (approx. £17,009, adjusted annually for inflation)
<b>Contract Type:</b>	3years* **
<b>Hours:</b>	35 hours per week
<b>Location:</b>	Goldsmiths, New Cross London, but will required to travel for conferences, fieldwork and related research activities

Closing date for applications: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019

Interviews: w/c 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019

\*This Home/EU studentship is funded for 3 years initially, commencing April 2020. Additional funding, up to a further 11 months during the fourth year of study (to end no later than Feb 2024), will be available subject to satisfactory academic progress, as defined by the academic milestones set out in the Goldsmiths Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research and Training.

\*\* Tuition fee waiver at the applicable Home/EU rate. The fee status of the applicant will be verified as part of the process.

## Goldsmiths

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Goldsmiths, University of London is a world-leading centre of educational excellence where ground-breaking research meets innovative teaching and thinking. We're looking for inspiring and talented people to help build on our global reputation while also growing personally in a true learning organisation.

We are happy to supply information in alternative formats for disabled applicants. Please contact [hr@gold.ac.uk](mailto:hr@gold.ac.uk) to make your request.



Passionate about advancing equality  
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Together, we are different



Together  
we are different

### Department of Sociology

The Department of Sociology has an outstanding reputation based upon our strong emphasis on theoretical sociology and the development of methodologically rigorous approaches to sociological issues. The Department is recognised as one of the foremost research Departments in the country. We were ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the UK REF2014 for research intensity and 35<sup>th</sup> in the QS World University Rankings for Sociology in 2018.

Ours is one of the largest Sociology Departments in the country, with 40 full-time members of staff, research staff and a dynamic group of international fellows and visiting tutors. The Department is currently host to around 480 UG students, over 80 PG students and around 50 PhD students. It has an excellent reputation for its teaching, having received the highest judgement of 'confidence' in the last QAA Developmental Engagement.

Further details about the Department are available at: <http://www.gold.ac.uk/sociology>

## The project

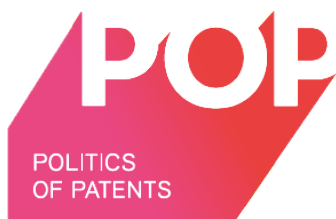
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This 3 year studentship is part of the 5 year research project *Politics of Patents: Re-imagining Citizenship via Clothing Inventions 1820-2020* funded by a European Research Council Consolidator grant #819458 and led by Dr Kat Jungnickel with a team of 2 x Postdoctoral Researchers, Research Fellow and Research Assistant.

*Politics of Patents* (POP) undertakes a global sociological investigation of 200 years of clothing inventions. It takes as its focus clothing patents archived in the European Patent Office database/s to explore connections between citizens and clothing. We are analysing how inventors create new forms of clothing that resist, subvert, or reinforce social and political norms and beliefs, and in the process, aim to develop a deeper understanding about how different expressions of citizenship come into being. POP builds on recent advances in critical citizenship studies that have expanded understandings of citizenship beyond that of legal status to include a wider variety of “acts of citizenship” (Isin and Nielson 2008). These are practices and performances, claimed and negotiated on many scales, including sensory and embodied mundane daily practice. Central to POP is the idea that clothing inventors might be explored as citizen-makers and that clothing patents are rich untapped sources of data that render visible *alternative* citizenship possibilities, which may provoke new questions about things we take for granted.

The candidate will be located in the POP Lab on Goldsmiths campus. Along with team members, they will be expected to travel for conferences, workshops, fieldwork and other related research activities. The POP project uses an inventive mixed-methods approach including quantitative and in-depth visual and document analysis, interviews with inventors and garment reconstruction. It is oriented around *sociological sewing* – researching, reconstructing and wearing of clothing as both subject and method of enquiry. As such, the POP Lab is equipped with sewing machines, cutting tables, dress-forms and related materials. We therefore welcome candidates who are interested in the intersections of social science and sewing and in exploring them further in their research scholarship. We also welcome candidates who want to explore these topics using other forms of practice (performance, exhibition and other object-oriented related

practice etc) – bearing in mind the above limitations of available lab equipment and materials. For more information please see [www.politicsofpatents.org](http://www.politicsofpatents.org)



## A Visual Sociology PhD

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The studentship is in the Visual Sociology MPhil/PhD programme in the Sociology department.

The key difference between this and the standard Sociology MPhil/PhD is that the written component of the thesis is shorter and is complemented by a practice element that forms an integrated part of the overall thesis and arguments as a whole:

- a) a written thesis of 60-80,000 words
- b) an accompanying body of work which may be of any media or material. As a guide, this body of work supports the written thesis. It does not simply “illustrate” the thesis but develops and extends the concerns of the doctoral project as a whole.

The successful PhD candidate will be expected to start in April 2020. From April to September, the candidate will work with supervisors and the POP research team to develop their research project. From September 2020, they will attend postgraduate induction sessions run by the Graduate School. They are also required to undertake and pass training in research methods from the Sociology portfolio and the Graduate School.

## The project

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The PhD student will develop an independent research project aligned to the ERC funded POP project using the European Patent Office clothing invention database. As mentioned above, they will be located within the POP Lab and while they will undertake an independent research project they will work closely with the POP team. They will be supervised by Dr Jungnickel and another senior member of the sociology department.

### **Possible PhD topic 1: The socio-political lives of ...a specific patented garment.**

This project will centre around the exploration of citizenship via a specific patented garment. For eg. The Burkini – a women’s full body swimsuit – was officially patented by Ahiida Zanetti in Australia in 2009, “to give women freedom, not to take it away” (Zanetti 2016). In Australia it is an official part of the Surf Life Saving Club uniform and worn by many to prevent sun damage. Although 40% of sales are not for religious purposes, the garment has become central to debates around gender, religion and public space, and most recently the focus of international attention and the French beach ban. The candidate would begin by developing a research problem out of this garment related to for eg. its history and socio-political controversies, ideas around embodiment and freedom of movement, gender and religious identity or spatial practices of inclusion and exclusion etc. The practice element might involve the sewing and wearing of burkini’s in different contexts, exploring the patented artefact in and as ethnographic research, in interviews, and performances etc.

Applicants are free to apply with variations on the above (i.e. with their own examples).

### **Possible PhD topic 2: What kind/s of citizens are made via... a type of patented clothing.**

This project will centre around the exploration of citizenship via a specific type of clothing that has been patented repeatedly over the last 200years (i.e. trouser/pantaloon, corset/bra, swimwear, care clothing, disaster-prevention clothing etc). As above, the candidate would begin by developing a research problem out of this garment type, its history, controversies over time and place, links to other actors – such as mobility technologies. etc. This might involve research into how inventors via

their specific inventions have attempted to imagine different futures for citizens – ie. how they have attempted to shape and been shaped by changing ideas around gender relations, mobility cultures and public space and/or how (and why) they have sought to create new forms of clothing that resist, disrupt and/or reinforce social and political norms. The practice element could involve making a range of these artefacts from across the archive and time periods and exploring ways of connecting them theoretically, methodologically and materially in response to the research question.

Applicants are free to apply with variations on the above (i.e. with their own examples).

### **Possible PhD topic 3: Candidate’s own interest (within POP project’s remit)**

Applications from those who wish to develop their own related research interests are highly encouraged. If invited to interview, they will be expected to discuss how their topic and approach fall within the boundaries of the POP project’s relevance.

## **Person Specification**

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Detailed below are the types of qualifications, experience, skills and knowledge which are required of the studentship. Selection will be made upon evidence of best-fit with this criteria.

The Essential criteria sections show the minimum essential requirements for the post, therefore if you cannot demonstrate in your application you meet the essential criteria categorised below, you will not be invited to interview.

The Desirable criteria sections show additional attributes which would enable the applicant to perform the role more effectively with little or no training.

The Category column indicates the method of assessment:

**A = Application form      C = Certificate**  
**I = Interview              R = Reference**  
**T = Test / P = Presentation**

<b>Category</b>
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<b>Essential Criteria 1 - Qualifications</b>	
A good Master's degree Applications from social sciences and humanities with a focus on science and technology studies (STS), feminist technoscience, citizenship, cultural and gender/ queer studies welcome	A, C
A good Bachelor's degree (upper second class honours standard or above) Applications from social sciences and humanities with a focus on science and technology studies (STS), citizenship, cultural and gender/ queer studies welcome	A, C
<b>Essential Criteria 2 – Experience</b>	
Experience in conducting qualitative research	A, I
Experience in conducting academic research on related topics	A, I
Demonstrated experience, skills or interest in developing some form of research practice – eg. sewing, performance, exhibition etc	A, I
<b>Essential Criteria 3 – Requirements</b>	
Willingness to participate in research team activities – local and international	A, I
Willingness to undertake and pass select research methods modules from Sociology portfolio and Graduate School training as necessary	A, I
Fluency in oral and written English	A, I
<b>Desirable Criteria 4 – Experience</b>	
Experience working with archival materials	A, I

**Please also note that where qualifications are required, the studentship is conditional on the verification of them. Qualifications (must be original documents) will be checked on the first day of appointment.**

## How to apply

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Enquiries and applications to Dr Kat Jungnickel on e-mail [k.jungnickel@gold.ac.uk](mailto:k.jungnickel@gold.ac.uk) by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019 with:

- a CV (max 2 pages)
- a letter of motivation (1 page) explaining why you want to join the project and what can you bring to it, with brief description of previous research and/or experience or accomplishments that demonstrate suitability for the position.
- a research proposal (max 2 pages) describing your research ideas related to suggested projects or the POP project description. Please include your theoretical and methodological approach, ideas around practice and expertise you might contribute to the project. See for example: <https://www.gold.ac.uk/pg/apply/research-proposal/>
- a previous writing sample (on any topic).

Shortlisted applicants may be asked for a reference. Anticipated interview period: w/c 9<sup>th</sup> December. Expected offers, conditional on departmental clearance: mid December

The successful applicant will then need to submit a formal admissions application, which must be completed in good time prior to enrolment on the programme.

We welcome applications from suitably qualified people, regardless of ethnicity, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, and working patterns.

## Summary of Benefits

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If you choose to study with us, you'll become part of a learning organisation that is committed to professional and personal development. You'll also have access to frequent lunchtime and evening talks, seminars and performances.

- A tax-free stipend matching the UK's Research Councils rate (approx. £17,009 annually, adjusted for inflation) for 3\* years
- Home/EU tuition fee waiver.



- All additional research and training related costs for 3\* years (e.g. conferences, workshops, fieldwork, equipment (computer, audio-visual devices, access to sewing machines and related materials etc) - as indicated above, while we welcome a range of practice interests, available equipment is shaped and limited by the sewing-orientation of the POP Lab).

Our other benefits include:

- On-site cinema, Curzon Goldsmiths, with student discounts and special screenings
- Located in Zone 2, with fantastic transport links
- On-site [dining facilities](#) and [gym](#)
- Access to [University of London facilities](#) such as Senate House Library

## Further information

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For more information about Goldsmiths, please visit: [www.gold.ac.uk/about](http://www.gold.ac.uk/about).

We can supply information in alternative formats for people with a visual impairment or dyslexia. For this please contact [hr@gold.ac.uk](mailto:hr@gold.ac.uk), or visit [www.gold.ac.uk/hr](http://www.gold.ac.uk/hr).

***Thank you for your interest in studying with us, we wish you all the best with your application.***

## References

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Isin, E and Nielsen, G.M (ed). 2008. *Acts of Citizenship*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Zanetti, A. 2016. I Created the Burkini to Give Women Freedom, Not To Take it Away, *Guardian Online*, 24 Aug, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/24/i-created-the-burkini-to-give-women-freedom-not-to-take-it-away>

**October 2019**

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