

# **White Rose Doctoral Training Partnership**

## **Methods Deputy Director**

### **About the WRDTP and its research methods training**

The WRDTP is a partnership of seven universities, which brings together the Universities of Bradford, Hull, Leeds, Manchester Metropolitan, Sheffield Hallam, Sheffield and York to deliver cutting edge social science training to postgraduate researchers. Our training is open to all social science PGRs in the partnership, regardless of funding status.

We offer cohort-wide training, which includes a programme of specialist methods training in the areas of advanced qualitative methods, advanced quantitative methods, and advanced data analytics. This training is organised and overseen by our three Methods Directors, who are each responsible for one of these areas. This cohort-wide programme of training complements the training offered by our seven thematic interdisciplinary pathways, which bring together researchers to address the most pressing challenges facing the world today. In line with our commitments to the ESRC, we also organise a small number of advanced research methods training events that are opened up to students beyond the WRDTP.

### **About the Methods Deputy Director role**

Each of our three Methods Directors are supported by two Deputy Directors, based in universities across the partnership. Together, the Methods Director and their Deputies are responsible for organising an annual programme of advanced research methods training in their particular area of responsibility (i.e. advanced qualitative methods, advanced quantitative methods, or advanced data analytics). Working collaboratively, the Methods Director and their Deputies ensure that the programme of advanced methods training offered is innovative, inclusive and engaging; and of relevance to PGRs across the partnership and pathways.

The role of Methods Deputy Director will be taken up by an academic colleague with:

- enthusiasm for research methods training and a genuine commitment to PGR support and development.
- experience of delivering PGR training and/or support.
- a background in research that utilises high quality and innovative methodological approaches.

The Methods Deputy Director is appointed by the WRDTP following open competition across our seven partner universities. Methods Deputy Directors can be from any of the departments and schools that have been formally accredited by the WRDTP. When making an appointment, attention will be paid to the overall composition of the team to ensure equitable and distributed representation of our partner universities.

### **Workload and tenure**

The role of Methods Deputy Director has an indicative workload of 0.1 FTE attached to it. This is to provide role-holders and line managers with a realistic sense of the time that is required to undertake the role. The term is for three years, with the expectation that post-holders continue in role during periods of study leave and similar.

At the point of application, applicants should confirm that their Head of Department/School supports the 0.1 FTE indicative workload allocation. Once the appointment has been made,

the WRDTP will ask the Head of Department/School for confirmation that the role-holder will have sufficient time to commit to the role.

The WRDTP fully recognises that workload allocation models and tariffs are institutional matters; and that different institutions may have different conventions for 'workloading' external commitments. Whilst the WRDTP does not want to specify how roles are incorporated into workload models, it is important that role-holders have the time necessary to fulfil the role.

### **Specific responsibilities**

- Working collaboratively with the Methods Director and fellow Methods Deputy Director, plan and deliver an annual programme of advanced research methods training, ensuring that this offer is broad-based and innovative, so that PGRs have the opportunity to experience a variety of established and cutting-edge research methods and tools. There is a minimum expectation that 4 events per year are offered by each Methods team per year.
- Attend the WRDTP Training Group annual planning event, which is held in person at one of our partner universities in May/June.
- Ensure that the methods training offered is accessible and inclusive, taking into account the different learning needs and styles of the PGR community.
- Contribute to cohort-wide WRDTP events, in particular the annual Advanced Research Methods Taster Day. Other cohort-wide events include the Welcome Day, Working Beyond Disciplines workshop and the Annual Conference.
- Provide relevant and engaging content (reading material, podcasts, videos) to support methods-focussed training activities, which can be hosted via the WRDTP website. This should include accessible 'bite sized' materials that can be shared beyond the WRDTP.
- As required, assess applications to WRDTP studentship competitions, ensuring that applications are treated in a fair, rigorous and timely way, in accordance with the WRDTP assessment criteria.
- As required, participate in assessment panels for WRDTP studentship competitions.

**WRDTP  
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