Call for Applications:

Lord Kelvin/Adam Smith
E-MiNDS PhD Studentship

Project Title:

"Educational & Health Impacts of Socio-Ethnic Migration & Neighbourhood Dynamics in Scotland (E-MiNDS)"

Lord Kelvin/Adam Smith Scholarship Project, University of Glasgow

Lead supervisor: Professor Gwilym Pryce (Urban Studies);

Co-supervisors: Dr Peter Craigmilie (Statistics); Dr Andy Smith (Sociology).

Summary:

The ethnic/religious composition of our cities and neighbourhoods is diverse and rapidly changing, with profound implications for social justice and cohesion. Current immigration policy, for example, with its far-reaching impacts on education and employment, is underpinned by a particular set of perceptions about ethnicity and the long-term effect of assimilation. Such policies are set against a backdrop of sociological concerns about how society perceives and integrates immigrant communities, and how contours of disadvantage fall along racial and religious lines, and persist down generations. For example, Devine et al. (2000) argue that discrimination towards early-twentieth-century Catholic immigrants became embedded, to the extent that these socio-religious divisions remain a source of disadvantage.

Much of this debate, however, is based on anecdotal evidence, small-sample/short-run case studies, or on area/group averages which are vulnerable to the Ecological Fallacy (using group-level results to make false inferences about individuals within those groups). Migration flows of individuals from particular ethnic/social backgrounds remain poorly understood at micro-spatial-scales and there is very little reliable evidence on the implications for long-term wellbeing.

This project will achieve a step-change in the scientific rigour applied to ethnicity research. Applying cutting-edge quantitative techniques to a unique combination of high-quality Scottish datasets, we shall open-up new avenues for ethnicity/inequality-research, and develop novel social-statistical methods that will have applications in other contexts. We shall follow 270,000 individuals over a twenty-year period, linking the greatly-underutilised *Scottish Longitudinal Study* (SLS) to a rich combination of data on neighbourhood composition, health, house prices and education. This will allow us to map-out the individual life-trajectories and health outcomes of persons identified as Catholic in 1991, compare these trajectories with those of persons from different ethnic/religious backgrounds, and shed light on questions about the extent to which long-term discrepancies in social mobility and health outcomes are driven by ethnicity/religion and/or neighbourhood effects.

Scholarship Details:

The *LKAS E-MiNDS* ("Educational & Health Impacts of Socio-Ethnic Migration & Neighbourhood Dynamics in Scotland") scholarship includes a student stipend of £13,726 per

annum, plus a fee waiver, plus £5,300 per annum for conferences attendance and research costs. The student will be based in *Urban Studies*, University of Glasgow, and be linked to the ESRC LDOES project (*Location Dynamics, Owner-occupation and Ethnicity in Scotland*). It is anticipated that the first year of the 4-year studentship will involve a substantial quantitative research training element, leading to a research methods Masters degree (e.g. MRes Urban Research).

Key Dates:

The *LKAS E-MiNDS* studentship is available for the period: October 2013 to Sept 2017. The deadline for applications is **28th April 2013** with interviews in May 2013.

Who is Eligible to Apply:

The scholarship is available to residents of any country provided the candidate has obtained leave to remain in the UK for the purposes of full-time study. Note that this is a highly quantitative project using spatio-temporal methods, jointly supervised between the *School of Social and Political Sciences* and the *School of Mathematics and Statistics*. As such, we would expect candidates to have strong statistical, computing and data analysis skills. Applications are welcome from candidates with either a mathematics/statistics background, and/or a social science/economics/geography background.

How to Apply:

In order to apply, candidates should send **(1) a full CV** and **(2) a covering letter** to Professor Gwilym Pryce by **28th April 2013**. Applications should be sent **by email** to the following address: gwilym.pryce@glasgow.ac.uk. The **covering letter** should explain how your skills and interests fit with the proposed research project.

For More Information:

Further details about the project are given below in the section "*Background to the LKAS MiNDS Project*"). If you need any further information, please contact Professor Gwilym Pryce (gwilym.pryce@glasgow.ac.uk).

Background to the LKAS *E-MiNDS* Project

Part of a Bigger Programme of Research:

The Lord Kelvin/Adam Smith (LKAS) *E-MiNDS* (**E**ducational & Health Impacts of Socio-Ethnic **Mi**gration & **N**eighbourhood **D**ynamics in **S**cotland) studentship will form part of USIRP (*Urban Segmentation and Inequality Research Project*). USIRP's is one of the four core projects that make up the ESRC AQMEN II Research Centre, and lies at the interface between AQMENII and the ESRC Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE). Including the LKAS project, USIRP currently comprises the following three funded elements:

(1) ESRC ***USIRP*** (**U**rban **S**egmentation and **I**nequality **R**esearch **P**roject) is one of the three core strands of the 4 year ESRC AQMENII Research Centre. Key research questions include: to what extent does preference for social/racial homogeneity reduce access to good schooling, and to what extent does the housing market sort people across space?

(2) ESRC ***LDOES*** (**L**ocation **D**ynamics, **O**wner-occupancy and **E**thnicity in **S**cotland) is a cross-linkage project connecting two ESRC Research Centres: AQMEN II and CoDE (Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity). It is a 3-year mixed-methods project that will examine the shifting historical dynamics of ethnic identity formation, deepening our understanding of the interactions between individual owner occupier migration flows, and inter-census neighbourhood patterns. The project will develop comprehensive analysis of the dynamics of ethnicity, identity and inequality, with a focus on Asian households and the house moves of Asian owner-occupiers.

(3) Lord Kelvin Adam Smith ***E-MiNDS***: PhD studentship researching: "**E**ducational & Health Impacts of Socio-Ethnic **Mi**gration & **N**eighbourhood **D**ynamics in **S**cotland". This 4 year project will be jointly supervised with the School of Mathematics and Statistics and will develop a cutting-edge spatio-temporal quantitative analysis of Catholic disadvantage/discrimination in Scotland using the SLS. *E-MiNDS* will map-out the individual life-trajectories and health outcomes of persons identified as Catholic in 1991, and compare their trajectories with those of persons from different ethnic/religious backgrounds. The project aims to ascertain the extent to which long-term discrepancies in social mobility and health outcomes are driven by ethnicity/religion and/or neighbourhood effects.

As such, the studentship offers an exciting opportunity to work with a large talented team of researchers working at the cutting-edge of socio-economic research on the interactions between social class, ethnicity, religion, health and social mobility.

Previous Research

The nature of Scottish national identity (and how its historical construction affects attitudes towards religious/ethnic minorities) has been the subject of long-standing debate (Miles and Dunlop 1987). Research on understandings of identity at the neighbourhood level have revealed distinctive effects of growing experience of cultural hybridity in everyday life (Virdee et al. 2006),

but also evidence of the persistent experiences of racism (GARA 2008). And there has been vigorous disagreement over the extent to which the long history of anti-Catholic/anti-Irish prejudice continues to affect communities today (Walls 2005).

These debates raise questions about how ethnicity is defined, how it evolves, and how individual identity is shaped within the corpus of national identity. This has pertinence to the current discussion about Scottish identity and Independence: what does it mean to be Scottish, and what does it imply for how we treat others?

Our approach will be to explore these issues using applied quantitative methods grounded in the extensive sociological theoretical literature. We shall develop an exceptionally fine-grained and comprehensive analysis that will address, with unprecedented depth and clarity, questions about the long-term impacts of individual ethnicity/religion, neighbourhood mix and change, of individual moving decisions, and of socio-ethnic exposure (particularly for minority ethnic groups).

Connections & Collaborations

The *E-MiNDS* project will further the wider goals of promoting social statistical research at the University of Glasgow, linking two long-standing GU research traditions (social science and statistics), and helping the University play a major role exploiting Scotland's rich data resources, with a view to establishing a world-leading social observatory.

The studentship offers very strong complementarities with the LDOES project and will also help forge substantive links with two multi-million-pound ESRC centres: CODE and AQMeNII/ USIRP. The LKAS *E-MiNDS* PhD will extend the LDOES analysis beyond Asian ethnic groups to include a wider spectrum of ethnic identities, and (crucially) will explore the impact on health and education outcomes, adding to a vibrant new critical mass of social statistical research emerging at the University of Glasgow. In addition, the studentship will seek to connect with the research undertaken in the Institute on Health and Well-Being and GRAMnet (Glasgow Refugee, Asylum and Migration Network).

Moreover, by working with Dr Craigmile, an expert in spatio-temporal modelling, we hope to inject an unparalleled level of statistical innovation into UK ethnic migration/health research, and create an important new point-of-connection between social scientists and Dr Craigmile's newly-formed GU Spatio-Temporal Statistics (GUSTS) working group. Currently in its early stages, GUSTS promises to offer much to social researchers since these methods promise to be among the most important techniques for exploiting many of the UK's world-leading—but under-utilised—data resources.

Innovation

Social Science Innovation: Research on substantive questions about the impact of individual and neighbourhood ethnicity have been frustrated by three fundamental problems: (1) the modifiable area unit problem (MAUP); (2) the Ecological Fallacy and (3) the absence of spatial context and analysis. The *E-MiNDS* project will lay the foundation for a range of new sociological research projects seeking to overcome each of these obstacles. Following individuals (rather than

area/group averages) over time, we shall be able to circumvent MAUP and the Ecological Fallacy. And by using census-based samples with precise geo-coding, we shall throw new empirical light on the interplay of a number of important sociological concepts such as class reproduction, the role of social networks, the extent of localisation/spatial segmentation and the impact of neighbourhood effects.

Statistical Innovation: While spatio-temporal modelling methods and data collection have bourgeoned in the last two decades, analysis techniques are still hampered for larger datasets. A key contribution of this project will be to develop statistical methods that are applicable to large samples like the SLS that are rich in covariate and spatial information. Specific innovations we hope to develop include: (1) multi-scale analyses that can investigate the fidelity of individual moves in the cohort studied, while allowing for the modelling of neighbourhood effects conditioning on various ethnic groupings; (2) statistical sampling methodology to fully exploit the census-based sampling design; and (3) robust procedures for handling missing data, potential cofounders and uncertainties.

Developing Key Skills

There is a chronic (and growing) quantitative skills deficit in social science in the UK (see, for example, the reviews summarised in the recent Nuffield/ESRC/EHFC call revealing an ageing demographic among quantitative social researchers and a fall in undergraduate social science students undertaking quantitative dissertations). As a result, there is a growing recognition that investment in quantitative social science is an urgent strategic priority (see Nuffield 2012 and the recently-released "position statements" by the British Academy and other learned bodies).

The LKAS studentship will help the candidate develop the necessary skills and experience to become a successful quantitative social researcher capable of contributing to research of the highest quality at the intersection of major disciplines. And, by generating exposure to first-rate data resources, we hope to stimulate interest in their use by other colleagues and open up rich new veins of research and significant funding applications. All this fits with a long-term strategy to exploit the outstanding data resources in Scotland, and with our ambition to establish a world-leading centre of social statistical research and teaching at the University of Glasgow.

Candidate's Role in the Project

Under the guidance of three experienced research-active supervisors, the candidate will develop a coherent set of feasible research questions. Having established a comprehensive review of the literature, they will work directly on the SLS and linked datasets, linking further datasets, and building cutting-edge statistical models achievable within the PhD period.

Research Training

The candidate will enjoy the full breadth and rigour of the ESRC research methods training in *Urban Studies/ College of Social Science* plus additional advanced options from SMS (*School of Mathematics and Statistics*). From the social science side, these will include ESRC-approved Social

Science Statistics training courses, offering hands-on experience of using social science data and practical guidance. Further postgraduate courses will provide specific training in current sociological research around issues of inequality (broadly conceived), challenging the candidate to think critically about the conceptual and theoretical questions involved in the project.

SMS is both a Member Institution and an Underwriting Institution for APTS (Academy for PhD Training in Statistics), offering the candidate access to further systematic, high quality training in advanced mathematical, computational and statistical techniques. The candidate will have the opportunity to give presentations in both SMS and the *College of Social Science* to benefit from a very broad range of expert research advice.

The student will also benefit from membership of the Glasgow Social Statistics Group (GSSG), a lively, supportive forum, providing social-statistical discussion, training, seminars, and support; and from membership of AQMeN (GU is one of the two primary nodes of the £4.4m ESRC Applied Quantitative Methods Network. Specific training will also be provided in the use of the SLS (via AQMEN/ADLS).