

## **Media & Communications, including Journalism & PR**

The [Communication & Computing Research Centre \(CCRC\)](#) and [Cultural, Communication & Computing Research Institute \(C3RI\)](#) welcome applications for full time, fully funded and part-time (fees only) PhD studentships, to start October 2017.

CCRC has a strong cross-disciplinary focus and enjoys extensive links with industrial and other external agencies. Research activity in media and communications takes place in areas such as social media and digital culture, social media and activism, social movements and social identity, Journalism and PR studies, digital technology, 'New Data' and society and heritage. CCRC is home to [CENTRIC](#) which specialises in terrorism, resilience and organised crime research.

In REF 2014, 65% of research submitted by CCRC was rated as world-leading or internationally excellent and the impact rating of our research was judged as 90% world leading. The featured PhD projects in Media & Communications listed below offer rich opportunities for PhD research alongside EU initiatives or RCUK funded research projects.

More information can be found on the [C3RI website](#).

### **How to apply**

Applicants should email their completed [postgraduate application form](#) (including a 1500 word proposal) to [C3RI@shu.ac.uk](mailto:C3RI@shu.ac.uk) by 12 noon on Friday 24 February 2017.

Applicants have the option of submitting their own research proposal OR you can develop a proposal in response to one of the featured projects listed below. In both cases, please also summarise:

- a) why you are interested in doing PhD research on this topic
- b) how your skills and experience to date (including your undergraduate and/or masters dissertation, if relevant) prepare you to embark on the project and
- c) any challenges that you foresee in conducting the research and how you might approach or solve them

We strongly recommend that you contact the project lead or other prospective supervisor to discuss and develop your research proposal before submitting your application form.

Please indicate clearly in your email whether you would like to be considered for:

- Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) Scholarship offered by the Faculty of Arts, Computing, Engineering and Sciences (ACES) only
- University PhD scholarship only
- Both scholarship schemes
- Part-time study (fees only) - GTA scholarship excluded

International applicants are eligible to apply for full-time University PhD scholarships only. Where English is not your first language, you must show evidence of English language ability to the following minimum level of proficiency: an overall IELTS score of 7.0 or above, with at least 6.5 in each component or an accepted equivalent. Please note that your test score must be current, i.e. within the last two years, and that relevant certificates must be submitted at the point of application.

For all queries about the application process please email [C3RI@shu.ac.uk](mailto:C3RI@shu.ac.uk)

## Selection process

**Interviews will be held between April 3 and 7 2017.** Shortlisted applicants will be required to give a 10 minute presentation (see below) followed by an interview. Interview panel members include the head of postgraduate research, a prospective director of studies and (for GTA applicants) a representative from the relevant teaching department. Where travel to Sheffield is not possible, interviews are conducted by Skype or conference call.

The presentation should outline your PhD research proposal or a research project you have already undertaken, as targeted to a non-expert audience, as we want to see how clearly you can articulate your ideas and key concepts. You may use PowerPoint if you wish or other visual aids as appropriate, but this isn't compulsory.

## Research areas

1. *Work and life in the collaborative economy in collaboration with the COST Action initiative [“From Sharing to Caring: Examining Socio-Technical Aspects of the Collaborative Economy”](#) for European Cooperation in Science and Technology*

*Project Lead: [Luigina Ciolfi \(l.ciolfi@shu.ac.uk\)](mailto:l.ciolfi@shu.ac.uk)*

The proposed project will consist of an in-depth, qualitative study of how being part of the “collaborative economy” affects people’s professional and personal lives, with a particular focus on how digital technologies mediate their practices. The focus will be on existing realities of cooperative, collaborative and “gig” work in the greater Sheffield area (such as, The Regather Works cooperative, the Krynkl co-working space, and the upcoming Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District). You will be assisted by the Director of Studies (DoS) in establishing contact with potential participants.

The project will be interdisciplinary, linking social science and computer-supported cooperative work and will feature extensive collaboration with the COST Action “From Sharing to Caring: Examining Socio-Technical Aspects of the Collaborative Economy”. COST Actions are initiatives for European Cooperation in Science and Technology. They fund training events, workshops and seminars, research visits and short-term scientific missions. The “SharingAndCaring” Action will run from 2017 to 2021 and will provide you with a fantastic opportunity to be part of a prestigious scientific network that includes both senior and early career researchers and other PhD students in at least ten countries. You will be able to apply for and receive funding for activities relevant to your doctoral project through the COST Action “SharingAndCaring”, and will be able to join one or more of the Action’s working groups to benefit from opportunities for presenting and receiving feedback on their research, and for disseminating their work.

The proposed DoS, Dr. Luigina Ciolfi, is one of the two UK representatives on this COST Action’s Management Committee and one of its original proposers, and will advise you on how to best benefit from the network throughout the project.

The project would be particularly suited for students interested in multidisciplinary work connecting computing and media to social and cultural phenomena. The ideal candidate will have a background and/or expertise in human-computer interaction, media or cultural studies, or social science with an interest in the impact of technology. Skills in qualitative research are desirable. Previous experience of working in or researching collaborative economy settings would be a plus.

2. *Exploring Palestinian self-representation in association with the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded research project Creative Interruptions: grassroots creativity, state structures and disconnection as a space for 'radical openness'.*

Project Lead: Anandi Ramamurthy (a.ramamurthy@shu.ac.uk)

This PhD could investigate any aspect of Palestinian self-representation in the arts and/or visual media.

The studentship will run alongside an AHRC funded research project called Creative Interruptions: grassroots creativity, state structures and disconnection as a space for 'radical openness' in which the strand headed by Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) will investigate the ways in which Palestinian cinema has attempted to challenge hegemonic histories and discourses of the Israel/Palestine conflict. While this PhD would be funded by SHU and sits outside of the framework of the AHRC project, it is anticipated that you will be able to benefit from the context of the wider research and from events such as film screenings and workshops which will be taking place as part of the Creative Interruptions research project.

Your PhD will also benefit from collaboration with Sheffield Palestine Cultural Exchange, established for the purposes of the Creative Interruptions project. Their community co-investigator will be able to offer mentoring and input to you on Palestinian politics in the UK.

Proposals are invited from media/film/cultural studies students or a film/video/photography practitioner with a critical interest in post-colonial representations. The student should be able to speak Arabic.