

Seed Corn Funding Competition Call for Applications:

As part of its ongoing effort to invest in its membership, Socrel invites applications for seed corn funding to support the development of significant and innovative work in the sociology of religion.

This competition is open to Socrel members at any stage of their careers who are also members of the British Sociological Association (BSA) and based at a UK university.

We will make one award of up to £5000 to be used in 2018.

The **deadline for applications is 10th November 2017**. Applicants will be notified of the outcome by mid-December 2017.

This award may be spent, in line with the BSA's terms and conditions, on travel, subsistence, a one-off work package delivered by a third party e.g. event recording, transcription, research expenses e.g. equipment, software, printing, but not salary or indirect costs/overheads/full economic costing (fEC).

We are open-minded as to the type of activity the seed corn funding is used for, for example, a writing workshop, pilot fieldwork, but it must be clearly designed to develop further work. [\[1\]](#)

We welcome applications from groups of members. In this instance, there must be a designated lead applicant who is a Socrel *and* BSA member and all co-applicants must have at least Socrel membership.

Any seed corn activity must be undertaken in line with the (lead) applicant's university's codes of ethics and conduct and data protection policies.

The BSA will pay the award to the successful (lead) applicant's institution once an invoice has been received.

The application must be emailed to incoming Socrel Convenor Céline Benoit (c.benoit@aston.ac.uk) and include the following:

Applicant(s) Details (name, affiliation, BSA and Socrel membership no and status, plus those of any co-applicants, excluding BSA membership info if this does not apply)

Proposal Title

Description of Seed Corn Activity Proposed (including background and rationale and how it is innovative and significant, up to 2 pages)

Description of Proposed Output(s) and/or Outcome(s)

(up to 1 page)

Timetable

(up to 1 page)

Budget

(1 page)

Applicant Short CV (plus short CVs for any other co-applicant named)

A note of support for the proposal from the (lead) applicant's line manager/head of department/postgraduate supervisor/institutional point of contact should be emailed separately to Céline by the competition closing date.

Criteria

Applications will be judged by the Socrel Chair, another Socrel committee member, and two independent volunteer Socrel members, using the following criteria, which are ranked in descending order:

1. Eligibility of applicant(s): affiliation to a UK university; Socrel AND BSA membership for the (lead) applicant and at least Socrel membership for any co-applicants
2. Innovation
3. Significance
4. Clarity of pathway to output(s) and/or outcome(s) e.g. a research project proposal, publicly available report, film, journal article, social impact^[2]
5. Applicant background and experience and proposal match
6. Benefit to Sociology of Religion in the UK
7. Value for money.

Please email c.benoit@aston.ac.uk if you have any queries.

^[1] Any event(s) organised should not clash with any Socrel-run ones or the BSA annual conference (please check the Socrel website or with Socrel Events Officer Rachael Shillitoe (r.shillitoe@worc.ac.uk) if unsure of scheduling).

^[2] Here we follow the Economic and Social Research Council's definition of social impact, please visit <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/research/evaluation-and-impact/what-is-impact/> for more information.

See last year's winning project (by Dr Sarah-Jane Page, Aston University):

Socrel Seed Corn Funding: *Religion and Intimate Life*

I am currently undertaking a pilot project called 'Religion and Intimate Life' with the seed corn funding Socrel generously awarded to me earlier this year. This project is using qualitative methods to explore religious attitudes to sexuality, in particular, attitudes to abortion and homosexuality. The key question posed by this pilot project is: What is the relationship between religion, intimate life and opinion-formation? This project will assess how religious individuals experience intimate life and formulate their views and opinions on intimate life, to ascertain the extent to which qualitative methods such as in-depth interviews can be utilised for a more detailed understanding of opinion-formation, particularly in relation to how opinion is constituted and the extent to which opinion alters over time.

The pilot study is a methodological test, used to inform the construction of a large bid to a major research council, and is based on in-depth interviews and questionnaires with 15 individuals of various religious affiliations. I am currently in the middle of data collection. The second part of the

funding is concerned with fostering connections with research teams and scholars around the world who are willing to collaborate on the aforementioned research bid. This connection-building is going very well; there is currently a lot of interest in this topic area within the discipline. This project is running over 18 months (the lengthy gestation due to my currently high administrative load as an Associate Dean). I will be reporting findings from the research at the Socrel conference in 2018.

Dr Sarah-Jane Page, August 2017

Céline Benoit
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