

Q-Step Summer Project 2017: Centre for Criminology and Criminal Justice (University of Manchester)

Ref: #27 UoMQStep 2017 CCCJ (UoM)

Team/Department: Centre for Criminology and Criminal Justice

Address: School of Law, University of Manchester, Williamson Building, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

Provisional Title for Project: "A Less Violent Society? Understanding the Homicide Landscape in England and Wales"

100 word abstract of what the project would probably undertake, and any data to be used:

The homicide rate in England and Wales significantly declined between 2003 and 2015. The primary aim of this study is to analyse Homicide Index data for England and Wales in order to establish whether the decline has occurred across all types of homicide or whether it has been specific to certain subtypes. This will assist in the development of theoretical perspectives and allow for the testing of popular hypotheses. Secondly, the analysis will examine the current landscape of homicide across England and Wales and explore particular subtypes (e.g. domestic homicide, child-parent homicide and substance-related homicide) in greater depth.

Key Words (up to 12): Homicide Trends, Homicide Index Data, Domestic Homicide, Child-to-Parent Homicide, Substance-Related Homicide, Theory Development

Essential and desirable skills that the student would need to have:

Essential: Experience of working with large datasets; ability to analyse data using statistical software (preferably SPSS), excellent numeracy skills; good written and verbal communication skills; effective time management and organisational skills; good levels of conscientiousness and ability to use initiative

Desirable: An interest in understanding (violent) crime trends; experience of using SPSS statistical software

Preferred selection method: Interview

Support and training offered by the organisation:

The student will receive a high level of supervision and support throughout the internship from Dr Caroline Miles, a lecturer in Criminology who is leading this project and has previous experience of analysing Homicide Index data. The Centre for Criminology and Criminal Justice has previously supervised a number of Q-Step students and is aware of the level of supervision and support required.

Any issues of data confidentiality and/or IPR that would need to be resolved:

This Homicide Index data has been provided in an anonymous format, however it is sensitive data and subject to a data sharing protocol which has already been set up with the lead researcher. The Home Office require that all personnel with access to the Homicide Data are named on the existing data sharing protocol, so the student's name would be added to this document.

Supporting Information:

The student will be assisting in analysing Homicide Index data which Caroline Miles has obtained from the Home Office. The work will include cleaning the data, producing basic descriptive statistics for aggregated and disaggregated homicide data, examining trends across subtypes of homicide, and examining particular characteristics of homicides which have increased or decreased over time. This will involve univariate and bivariate analyses. The student will also be required to write a report presenting the key findings.

Financial assistance offered by the organisation: N/A