**Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) European Fellowships:**

We are looking to support a small number of high-quality applications under the new round of [MSCA European Fellowships](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/msca-if-2020;freeTextSearchKeyword=Marie%20Sklodowska-Curie%20Actions;typeCodes=0,1;statusCodes=31094501,31094502;programCode=null;programDivisionCode=null;f=) and would welcome expressions of interest from interested researchers, particularly, but not exclusively, in the following areas aligning with our research clusters:

**Social Divisions and Economic Life**

**Culture, Identity and Subjectivity**

**Crime, Justice and Public Policy**

**Transnationalism, Nation and Rights**

**Sociological Foundations – Theory and Methods**

This year’s call for MSCA fellowship applications closes on **9th September 2020**.

MSCA European Fellowships are highly flexible funding schemes offered to experienced researchers. Fellows are based at a host institution, where they will work with their supervisors to deliver a specific project involving research, innovation, training and networking activities. The funding guarantees mobility and financial independence with a generous set of allowances**.**

**MSCA European Fellowships:**

* are open to researchers moving within Europe, as well as those coming in from other parts of the world.
* can restart a research career after a break, such as parental leave.
* can help researchers coming back to Europe find a new position.
* are held in the EU or associated countries and last for one to two years.
* The fellowship can also include an optional secondment period of up to three or six months in another organisation in Europe (depending on the duration of the fellowship).

**Eligibility criteria:**

Applicants need a doctoral degree or at least four years’ full-time research experience by the time of the call deadline on 9 September 2020. Applicants can have any nationality. Applicants can move from any country to the country of the host institution (UK). At the time of the call deadline, applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity (e.g. work, studies etc.) in the UK for more than 12 months in the last 3 years.

**Expression of Interest:**

Interested applicants should submit a one-page CV, an outline of the proposed research (maximum 500 words) and a cover letter highlighting why you believe this area of work will be suited to the Department of Sociology at the host institution (maximum 500 words).

**Application Process:**

* Read the [Guidance for Applicants and FAQ documents on the funding body’s website](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/msca-if-2020;freeTextSearchKeyword=;typeCodes=1;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programCode=H2020;programDivisionCode=31047824;focusAreaCode=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;callCode=Default;sortQuery=submissionStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState).
* Make sure you meet all eligibility criteria. Complete the Expression of Interest (EoI – outlined above) and send it to nvdem@essex.ac.uk (Dr. Neli Demireva, Research Director in the Department of Sociology) by 5pm on **Wednesday 15th of July 2020**.
* Review of expressions of interest will start after the July deadline. Proposals will be evaluated based on research quality, the applicant’s future career prospects and the availability of appropriate supervision. This will ensure sufficient time for matching the prospective applicant to a supervisor and the development of a strong application before the call for MSCA applications.
* Applicants will be informed of the outcome of the evaluation by the 20th of July.
* The successful applicant[s] will be supported in completing their application by the selected supervisor. Successful candidates will also have the support of the University of Essex pre-award team in the Research and Enterprise Office, which will provide costings and will take the application through our institutional authorisation process. Full applications will be required by the pre-award team deadline on **26th August 2020**.