**University of Leicester**

**Future 50 PhD Scholarship**

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| **Project Reference** | MCS Hughes |

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**Section 2 – *Project Information***

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| **Project Title** | Winston Parva Revisited: A Community Restudy of Established–Outsider Relations | |
| **Project Highlights:** | 1. | Unique opportunity for a PhD student to undertake a restudy of established–outsider relations in Leicestershire region, with much wider significance for studies of community power tensions from the local to the global in scale and reach. The project aligns with MCS research strategy (p1) to bolster PGR numbers, showcasing historical and current research strengths at Leicester, and feeding into future funding applications relating to these areas. One of the supervisory team is an ECR (p2), the other an established academic with a lengthy track record of successful supervision in this area (p4). |
| 2. | Explore processes of continuity and change in area of high social inequality, contributing to understandings of how over time community divisions emerge and can be sustained, exacerbated, and diminished through successive social policies, their enactments and realisations (p1). |
| 3. | Centrally engage members of a marginalised Leicestershire community in the project’s scope and design in ways that redress some of the shortcomings of the original study undertaken in the 1950s, enhancing the University’s community engagement and citizens of change agenda, which centrally underpins MCS’s research strategy (p1). |
| **Project Summary** | | |
| Norbert Elias and John Scotson’s (1965) *The Established and the Outsiders* remains a highly influential and widely-cited study with far-reaching significance for contemporary scholarship on community relations, power and social inequality. The research underpinning the book was originally undertaken in the 1950s by Scotson for his Sociology MA at Leicester under Elias’s supervision. Scotson explored a region of Leicestershire aliased ‘Winston Parva’ (South Wigston), in which community relations between groups of roughly equivalent levels of income, occupation, ethnicity, and educational attainment developed a core dynamic through which one group, ‘the established’, became dominant, whilst another, ‘the outsiders’, came to be subjugated, marginalised, and treated as inferior. *The Established and the Outsiders*, later co-authored by Elias and Scotson, models how such dynamics emerge, and how ‘Winston Parva’ might be paradigmatic of community divisions, emergent inequalities, and social power balances more widely.  Since its publication, the ‘established—outsiders’ model has been applied by subsequent scholars to topics ranging from the plight of homeless migrants, to the escalating conflict spirals of warring states. However, no-one has yet investigated how the dynamics originally modelled in South Wigston have changed since the research was first undertaken, and what such changes might mean for understanding contemporary inequalities and community divisions. The reasons for this lack of follow-up are complex, however they include the long disappearance of Scotson’s original MA thesis, which contained crucial information on how the study was conducted and delineated, and details of the methods, questions, techniques and procedures involved.  Fortunately, Scotson’s thesis has recently been rediscovered and made exclusively available to scholars at Leicester. This presents a unique opportunity for a PhD researcher to:   1. Investigate emergent and enduring inequalities in South Wigston, centrally involving members of the community in the study’s design and scope 2. Explore contemporaneously- and developmentally-shifting community power relations in tandem with processes of urban renewal and demographic/sociocultural refiguration 3. Interrogate historical links between emergent social inequalities and life chances in relation to such areas as education, health, and occupational destinations.   Consistent with the project’s aims, we will particularly encourage applications from candidates from socially disadvantaged/marginalised backgrounds (p3). | | |