**University of Leicester**

**Future 50 PhD Scholarship**

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| **Project Reference** | ML Staniland |

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**Section 2 – *Project Information***

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| **Project Title** | Latinx in the UK: Identity, Visibility and British Latinx Studies |
| **Project Highlights:** | 1. | To play a leading role in establishing a new interdisciplinary field of research in the UK - a major contribution to knowledge: what does it mean to be Latinx in the UK? |
| 2. | To undertake research that intersects literary and cultural studies with contemporary British identity politics |
| 3. | To engage in research that brings matters of equality and diversity into sharp focus, with impact potential embedded into project design |
| **Project Summary**  |
| The field of British Latinx Studies is yet to be established. This project identifies this significant gap in UK scholarly enquiry and seeks to contribute to academic explorations of British Latinidades through the development of an interdisciplinary project examining British Latinx selves and lived experiences through literature, cultural studies, and/or the arts.Latino, Latin@ or, in its most common contemporary form, Latinx Studies, is a long-established academic field in the USA, with its first roots set down via the Chicano and Puerto Rican cultural movements of the 1960s, and an ever-growing presence in Latin American Studies departments and conferences in North America since that time. As an academic field of study, Latinx Studies significantly contributes to the visibility and understanding of the USA’s largest minority population group. In the UK, this remains a burgeoning field. Only a handful of specialist modules focus on Latinx Studies, and discussion of Latinx topics in the largest UK learned societies for American Studies (BAAS) and Hispanic Studies (SLAS, AHGBI), remains limited. This project will therefore have immediate academic knowledge exchange and social value, as it will take an interdisciplinary approach to rendering more visible the UK’s 8th largest minority group and its literary, cultural, and artistic production. In so doing, this project develops our understanding of the Hispanic UK population and its growing cultural influence. This project is a first step in the realisation of the field of British Latinx Studies, and drawing on literary, cultural, and artistic sources, it will shed new light on what it means to identify as British and Latinx in the contemporary UK, enhancing understandings of:* the UK’s historical relationship with Spain and Latin America;
* contemporary relationships in the contexts of globalisation and future challenges such as changing global migration patterns in response to climate change;
* diversifying discussions about race, ethnicity and language on our multicultural, post-Brexit island;
* issues around access to, and presence in, UK HE for minority groups.
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